

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn gives his first keynote election campaign speech at the Assembly Hall, Church House, Westminster

London's key role in battle for power

Lib Dems target capital's 'Remain' seats ● Labour hope Sadiq can help

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

BIG-HITTING Liberal Democrats who made their names in the coalition government are aiming to return to power by contesting London's overwhelmingly Remain-voting seats.

It was reported this week that Sir Vince Cable will stand in Twickenham, Ed Davey will stand again in his old Surbiton seat and Sir Simon Hughes will fight again for Southwark.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron said the party has been preparing for a snap election since last June, and will make opposition to Brexit the standout issue of the seven-week campaign, a strategy that has already brought them huge success in the

Richmond Park by-election, in which the party defeated Zac Goldsmith.

"This election is your chance to change the direction of our country," Mr Farron said. "If you want to avoid a disastrous hard Brexit, if you want to keep Britain in the single market, if you want a Britain that is open, tolerant and united, this is your chance. Only the Liberal Democrats can prevent a Conservative majority."

A party spokesperson said more than 1,500 people had joined the party in the hour after the election was called.

The 2015 election was devastating to the Liberal Democrats, reducing it from 57 MPs to eight, with its traditionally left-leaning voters punishing it for enabling

Tory policies under David Cameron's government.

Meanwhile, London's Labour MPs elected just two years ago are wondering if their Parliamentary careers are about to come to a juddering halt.

The party's poor showing in the opinion polls – with leader Jeremy Corbyn unable to lift their fortunes – suggests a number of MPs in marginal seats are at risk following Theresa May's snap election call.

Four Labour MPs who took seats from the Tories in 2015 with majorities of less than 1,500 are thought to be especially vulnerable.

Rupa Huq (Ealing Central & Acton) is most at risk, defending a majority of just 274, closely followed by Ruth Cadbury (Brent-

ford & Isleworth), Wes Streeting (Ilford North) and Joan Ryan (Enfield North).

The June 8 General Election could also set the stage for an unexpected political comeback by veteran Liberal Democrat MPs who lost in 2015.

Lib Dem heavyweights Sir Simon Hughes, Sir Vince Cable and Ed Davey have all been re-elected to fight seats they lost at the last election.

Ex-Business Secretary has the best chance in Twickenham where newly elected Tory Tania Mathias defends a majority of 2,017.

Former Energy Secretary Ed Davey will be hoping to recapture Kingston & Surbiton where Conservative James Berry has a ma-

2017 ELECTION



PM Theresa May is heading for the polls on June 8



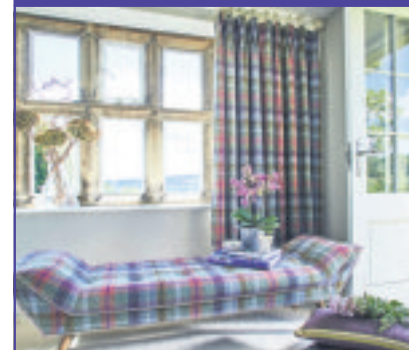
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WILL THE CAPITAL BE ELECTION CENTRAL? SEE PAGE 3

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Countdown to Chelsea PAGE 13

NICK PAGET-BROWN



Brunswick Gardens is one of the quietest and most beautiful streets in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea. In the early spring sunlight it is absolutely stunning and the reason is that the cherry trees are in blossom

I can't imagine borough without its cherry trees

"LOVELIEST of trees, the cherry now..." wrote A.E. Housman and in the springtime it is hard to disagree, writes Nick Paget-Brown.

Strolling up to Notting Hill Gate the other day I decide to go the back way, by which I mean I went up Vicarage Gate rather than Kensington Church Street.

I'm glad I did. Vicarage Gate leads you to the white stucco terraces of Palace Gardens Terrace, Brunswick Gardens and Berkeley Gardens, which at any time are some of the quietest and most beautiful streets in the borough. In the early spring sunlight, however, they are absolutely stunning and the reason is that the cherry trees are in blossom.

Inevitably, A.E. Housman's famous poem – *Loveliest of trees* – sprang to mind. And I dimly recalled from a lecture heard long ago that as well as being a hymn to the cherry tree the poem might also be something of a reflection on mortality.

But notwithstanding that, I still

felt uplifted. And it got me to wondering just how many cherry trees we have on the streets of the Royal Borough.

The answer, it turns out, is about 800. The species that dominates is the white flowering cherry; or *Prunus avium Plena* for the botanists and show-offs amongst you.

We also have some other types of flowering cherry as well as species such as *amelanchier*, pear, apple and magnolia. Overall, there are getting on for 8,000 trees lining our streets. Close to a third of them are planes of the sort you see on Holland Park Avenue, but there are some 160 species in all, ensuring we have lots of colour in the autumn as well as the spring.

And here's the other thing I found out from our excellent tree team: the cherry isn't an especially long-lived tree. On average they live for just 70 years or "threescore years and ten" as Housman would say.

So it is no accident of nature that the streets of the Royal Borough still have so many beautiful blossom trees but the result of careful planning and investment by yes, you've guessed it – the Council.

In fact, over the past decade or so we have replaced more than half of the oldest and most diseased cherry trees in a phased programme that keeps each spring in Kensington and Chelsea as blossomy as the last – weather permitting of course.

As regular readers of this column will know, the Council has many things to attend to, like building new homes and new schools, looking after vulnerable residents and much, much else besides and the money we have for doing all that has been shrinking year-on-year.

But things would have to get a lot, lot worse before we would ever contemplate a Kensington and Chelsea without its cherry trees.

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Monica Press

Deputy leader,
Kensington
& Chelsea
Labour Group



SO the General Election has been confirmed for June 8. And as the media focuses on who is fit to govern let's just remind ourselves of what Labour is already achieving in government.

In government? What's she talking about? Where are they in government? In London and in local government. London is a Labour city with the majority of London boroughs being controlled by Labour administrations. And it is Labour controlled boroughs, with less income and far fewer reserves than Kensington & Chelsea, and facing the same level of cuts as this borough, that are leading the way in finding new solutions to balancing their budgets without cutting services to residents.

And while they do so, Kensington & Chelsea's Cabinet report an Adult Social Care budget underspend of £2.2 million for 2016/17, return that underspend to reserves, and then reduce the same budget by a further £1.9 million for 2017/18. And at the same time approve a Council Tax rise this year which will bring in just £1.5million. Yet Labour-run Hammersmith and Fulham can freeze council taxes for a further year whilst abolishing all charges for home care for the elderly and disabled people.

How can they do this? By reviewing the costs of assessment and administration against the costs of the service, Hammersmith & Fulham decided to scrap all costs, and by saving money on contractors and the bureaucracy of the assessment process they have been able to offer the elderly and disabled free home care services. And they are covering much of the shortfall by a larger NHS contribution to the service. The NHS knows that healthier older people make less visits to GPs and hospitals.

Camden has just won a prize for collaborative estate regeneration; directly developing an old estate in partnership with its residents and maintaining the residents and community on the regenerated estate. By saving on developer costs – i.e. saving the 20% profit margin most developers demand and by owning all the new homes on the site – the result is more social-rented homes, satisfied residents and a successful design.

Camden's new Council Tax reduction scheme will ensure that the very poorest households do not have to pay any Council Tax not just those in receipt of certain benefits. From April 2017, all households on low incomes can apply for 100% financial support for Council Tax depending on their incomes. This will contribute to the council's goal of reducing child poverty.

And Southwark, one of the most cash strapped boroughs in London, is able to offer residents over 60 and the disabled free use of swim and gym facilities at all times and all borough residents free entry at weekends because they put a premium on investing in the health of their residents.

So it doesn't seem to be a matter of income and wealth but a matter of choice as to where a Council's priorities are. Just think what Kensington & Chelsea council could achieve if the Cabinet took the very simple and easy decision to reinvest the forecast underspend of £8.5million from 2016/17 in its residents not its reserves.

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Will the capital be election central?

FROM PAGE 1

majority of 2,834. Both will take encouragement from the Richmond Park by-election in 2016 where Lib Dem Sarah Olney ousted Zac Goldsmith after running an anti-Brexit campaign.

Sir Simon faces a tougher challenge in Bermondsey and Old Southwark where Labour's Neil Coyle defends a majority of 4,489.

Both Lib Dem challengers and sitting Labour MPs will hope the Tories' commanding lead in the polls will be offset by Londoners' support for the EU. Almost 60 per cent of London voters backed the Remain campaign in the 2016 referendum.

Under Ed Miliband Labour secured 43.7 per cent of the vote in the capital while the Conservatives mustered just 34.9 per cent, helping Labour take a total of seven seats off the LibDems and Tories.

But recent polling suggests the party is currently the first choice of only 37 per cent – just three points above the Tories who are polling in line with their 2015 performance.

Having secured his own personal landslide last May, it's likely this group of Labour marginal MPs will lean heavily on London Mayor Sadiq Khan to help shore up their support and save their seats. Expect to see lots of photo-ops with the anti-Brexit Mayor in these seats.

Luckily, given that local government publicity rules will soon silence City Hall, Mr Khan will have plenty of time to pose for pictures with his colleagues.

Whether his personal popularity can outweigh Mr Corbyn's negative impact on the party's support will make the race in London especially interesting.

But the far earlier than expected general election doesn't only free up the mayor to campaign for his colleagues, it also risks upsetting any plans he has to become Labour's next leader.

Had events run their expected course, his term at City Hall would have expired on the same day as the 2020 general election, when some claimed he'd then seek to return to the Commons and stand in the resulting Labour leadership election, becoming a one-term mayor.

In contrast to Labour, the Conservatives are confident of victory.

But they to move sharply away from their vow to slash immigration this week as a Cabinet minister declared the issue was "not about numbers".

Culture Secretary Karen Bradley, a close ally of the Prime Minister, appeared to suggest there will be no specific promise on immigration levels in the Conservative manifesto.

Business leaders welcomed her comments as a sign that Mrs May will not endanger the economy by attempting to cut net immigration below 100,000.

Interviewed on Sky News,



Mayor Sadiq Khan may be able to boost the election chances of London's Labour MPs Picture: SWNS

Mrs Bradley was asked if the Tories still thought that cutting immigration to the "tens of thousands" was achievable.

She replied: "What we need is to have the right people, to attract the brightest and best. It's not about putting numbers on it, it's about making sure that we can deliver where industry needs skills, where the brightest and best want to come to Britain."

"We want to be an attractive place that people want to come and work, to deliver that strong economy that pays for those public services that we all value so much." The comments are another sign that Downing Street is rowing back on so-called "hard Brexit" commitments which could, for example, mean extending European free movement rules by up to three years after Britain leaves the EU.

Sean McKee, policy director of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was pleased. He said: "We absolutely agree that securing the skills for London is not about numbers. It is about securing the skills that the UK and London needs." Tory Right-wingers were giving Mrs May the benefit of the doubt this morning. Brexit-backing MP Philip Davies said Mrs Bradley's comments showed the Government was wary of "over-promising". He added: "It is obviously essential that immigration comes down. That's one of the reasons people voted to leave the EU."

Tory Right-winger Peter Bone MP said he was not alarmed, and it was sensible to allow "doctors and nurses" to come in to staff the NHS, for example. He added: "I think that my people expect immigration to fall substan-

tially."

Labour MP Chuka Umunna said Mrs May should lose no time in abandoning David Cameron's aim of cutting numbers to the tens of thousands. "She should have dropped that ludicrous pledge when she became Tory leader. It is unachievable and it undermines trust in the system when, year after year, they fail to meet the target."

Although ministers stress they will have "control over numbers after Brexit, official figures show that non-EU immigration – over which the Government already has full control – has been massively above target for years. In the year to September 2016, net immigration stood at 273,000. That comprised 165,000 EU citizens, who enjoy free movement, and 164,000 non-EU citizens who do not.

How do the parties currently stand?

The Conservatives have 330 seats, Labour 229, the SNP 54, the Lib Dems nine and Plaid Cymru three. The Green Party has one MP. UKIP have no MPs after their sole representative left the party and became an independent. For Northern Ireland, the Democratic Unionist Party have eight MPs, Sinn Féin, who don't take up their seats, four, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) three and the Ulster Unionist Party two. Five MPs sit as independents.

2015 RESULTS

Constituency - **Hammersmith**
Borough - Hammersmith and Fulham
Party - Labour
MP - Andy Slaughter
Majority - 6518

Constituency - **Kensington**
Borough - Kensington and Chelsea
Party - Conservative
MP - Victoria Borwick
Majority - 7361

2017 ELECTION

Constituency - **Cities of London and Westminster**
Borough - Westminster
Part of the seat is also in - City of London
Party - Conservative
MP - Mark Field
Majority - 9,671

Constituency - **Chelsea and Fulham**
Borough - Hammersmith and Fulham
Part of the seat is also in - Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Party - Conservative
MP - Rt Hon Greg Hands
Majority - 16022

Constituency - **Ealing Central and Acton**
Borough - Ealing
Party - Labour
MP - Rupa Huq
Majority - 274

Constituency - **Brent Central**
Borough - Brent
Party - Labour
MP - Dawn Butler
Majority - 19,649

Constituency - **Westminster North**
Borough - Westminster
Party - Labour
MP - Karen Buck
Majority - 1,799



Prime Minister Theresa emerges from 10 Downing Street to announce that she is calling a snap election Picture: SWNS

Underground workers to stage 24-hour walkout after sacking

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DISGRUNTLED London Underground staff are to stage a 24-hour strike and take other forms of industrial action in a dispute over the sacking of a colleague.

Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union based mainly at London Bridge will walk out at 10pm on May 7 and launch what they say is an indefinite campaign of action, including not servicing ticket machines and not challenging passengers who refuse to produce a valid ticket.

The RMT says a worker was sacked and two others disciplined for tackling a fare dodger said to have attacked other station staff.

LU disputes the union claims.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "Our members have voted for action in support of their victimised colleagues at London Bridge and with LU making it absolutely clear they have no interest in the principles of natural justice we have no option at all but to move to a campaign of industrial action.

"This is one of the most appalling abuses of the LU disci-



Does your commute involve going through London Bridge? The Rail, Maritime and Transport union has announced a 24-hour strike from 10pm on May 7 to 9.59pm on May 8

plinary procedure that RMT has ever come across.

"This was a shocking, violent incident and those that bore the brunt of it should have been supported and commended by the company.

"Instead they have been sacked or disciplined in what is the most appalling multiple

miscarriage of justice.

"LU have flouted their own zero tolerance policy, their own duty of care to their staff and have sent out a message to fare dodgers and yobos that staff can be treated as punch bags with impunity.

"That is an outrage that has enraged every single Tube

employee who risks their neck on the stations and platforms against a backdrop of a growing pattern of abuse and violence.

"London Underground should do the decent thing - reinstate our member, lift the disciplinary action

and send out the message that fare-dodging and violence will not be tolerated and that staff in the front line will get the support and assistance that they need."

Brian Woodhead, Operations Director for London Underground, said: "We conducted a thorough investigation into this incident, including an extensive review of CCTV footage from the station. Following a full disciplinary process, the decision to dismiss this member of staff has been upheld.

"Our investigation clearly showed that no member of staff was assaulted, nor was the incident prompted by staff defending a colleague.

"We take a zero tolerance approach to violence against our staff but we also expect our employees to adhere to acceptable standards of conduct and behaviour when dealing with members of the public.

"In this case, those standards were not met. We urge the RMT to withdraw this unjustifiable action which will only result in needless disruption to Londoners."



More complaints are made about drivers

THE number of complaints against Tube drivers in 2016 was at its highest level in seven years, new figures show.

Data obtained by *City AM* shows Transport for London (TfL) has received nearly 2,500 complaints against Tube drivers between 2010 and 2016. In 2016, the number of complaints against Tube drivers stood at 515, the highest number shown in the data set, which begins in 2010. This means that reported grievances have increased over 56 per cent between 2010 and 2016.

A total 382 complaints were registered in 2015 compared to 365 and 286 in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

Kwasi Kwarteng, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, said: "These figures are regrettable and in the light of strike action which has affected many Londoners in the last 18 months, this development is very worry-

ing. TfL has a lot of questions to answer."

London assembly member Keith Prince said: "This is a significant increase and something TfL cannot ignore. More information is needed about how and why these complaints have spiked but this is clearly deserving of investigation. It is important customers are satisfied with driver conduct and performance on London's transport network."

TfL said it received "very few complaints" in relation to the Night Tube, which launched last year.

Steve Griffiths, London Underground's chief operating officer, told *City AM*: "We are determined to do better for our customers and take all complaints seriously.

"The Night Tube has been extremely popular since its launch, with very few complaints."

Smokers take pot shot at drugs laws

THOUSANDS of stoners gathered in London's Hyde Park on Wednesday to defy police and smoke cannabis.

Despite police warnings not to smoke drugs in the park, pot enthusiasts descended in their thousands for the annual pro-Marijuana rally.

The smoky protest is held annually on April 20, because the date is 420 - known as the 'perfect' time to spark up a joint.

The smokers are calling on the Government to legalise the Class B drug and risked arrest by using the illegal drug at the event.

24-year-old construction worker James Adams came straight after work and was still wearing his hi-vis jacket. The Wandsworth resident said: "I'm here to smoke a bit of bud. It's nice bud here. It's all about love and peace. Everyone's happy. Once people start fighting then you can say it's bad but it's not.

"It's calm, cool, relaxed. Everyone's in a good vibe. It's so different compared to other drugs. If everyone was taking coke there would have to be a stage and pumping music and people would be here until the morning."

His friend, Yusuf Mohammed, 28, also in construction and from Wandsworth, said: "I don't smoke anymore but I'm here. It's love and peace and I wanted to come and see it. This is the first time we've come to the event. We've had some laughs and met some nice people. I might have one while I'm here."

A 19-year-old politics student from the University of Aston also went to the event but didn't want to be named.

He said: "It's a nice day. I'm on my fifth joint. I like weed because it's a form of relaxing."

The west London resident was amazed with how many people showed up for 420.

He said: "Last year it got a lot of publicising and this year it's really big. We've been here an hour and I'd say 3,000 people have walked by. It's a pleasant and peaceful atmosphere."

Before the huge celebration of cannabis culture the Met Police tweeted: "A reminder for those attending the rally at #HydePark today, officers will be enforcing drugs legislation #420."

But that didn't stop thousands of people gathering to enjoy the day.

Peter a 28-year-old concierge said: "It's just a celebration of the plant that I enjoy. It's nice to see this many people getting together in one place and celebrating one thing."

"I don't think it would do much harm if it were legalised. It does way more good than harm in the States and so many people here smoke it anyways you might as well. The attitude towards weed is relaxed here."

"Weed day" takes place on April 20 or in the day American format 4/20 and fans of the drug spark up at 4.20pm.

The origins of this tradition are unclear but some claim it comes from California in the 1970s where a group of teenagers would meet up to smoke weed at 4.20pm.

The event's organiser in London Eric Shepperd told the London Free Press: "It's not just dirty hippies that smoke marijuana. It's older people, it's businesspeople, it's academics - all sorts of people use cannabis in a responsible and active way."

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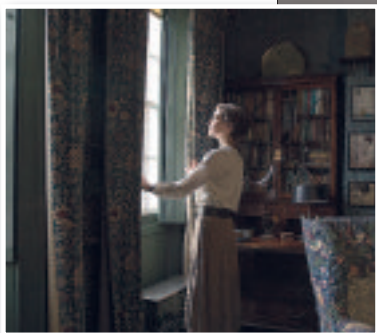
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Volunteer Jo Eaton opens the shutters at Emery Walker's House



Curator Helen Elletson opens the door of 7 Hammersmith Terrace



Tour guide Angela Clarke leads a guided tour. Here, in the Drawing Room, she is drawing the attention of the group to pieces once owned by Dante Gabriel Rossetti



Curator Helen Elletson hangs a Burne-Jones portrait of May Morris. For more details, visit www.emerywalker.org.uk

Open again, the home locked in time

THE best preserved Arts & Crafts home in Britain reopened this week after an 18-month closure for vital restoration work.

Emery Walker's House at 7 Hammersmith Terrace was the home of one of the key members of the Arts & Crafts movement, a close friend of William Morris and father of the Private Press movement.

The contents of Sir Emery Walker's riverside home – around

6,000 items – were removed for cataloguing and conservation. This allowed vital repair work, including the replacement of the roof, to be carried out, creating a safer environment for the house's remarkable collection. The project has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Arts & Crafts Hammersmith project, a joint initiative with the William Morris Society, for which match

funding has been found from charitable trusts and individual donations.

The collection has now been returned to this atmospheric time capsule which is packed with Arts & Crafts treasures, including one of the largest in situ collections of Morris & Co wallpapers in the world.

The house has extended its tour season until November 25.

Teenager suffers 'life-changing' injuries following acid attack

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A TEENAGER suffered horrific burns to his face and neck and a woman was also hurt in the latest acid attack in London.

Police say a corrosive liquid was thrown at them as they chatted on a bust street in Fulham on Wednesday lunchtime.

The 18-year-old is said to have suffered "life-changing" injuries while the 47-year-old woman was treated for minor burns.

Police are hunting a black man seen running from the scene in Fulham Palace Road at about 1.10pm. The suspect ran off along Crabtree Lane, and is believed to have fled from the area on a moped parked nearby.

Both victims were taken to a west London hospital.

The teenage victim suffered severe burns to his neck, face and shoulder. He has left hospital, but police said his injuries may be life-changing.

The woman was treated for small burns to her shoulder and neck and has also been discharged.

No arrests had been made when the LWN went to press, and detectives were appealing for witnesses earlier this week.

The attack is not believed to be linked to an incident at a nightclub in Dalston, east London, in the early hours of Easter Monday when 20 people suffered burns after a corrosive substance was thrown inside the venue.

A Met Police spokesman said: "Detectives from the Met's Trident and Area Crime Command are investigating after two people were injured by a corrosive substance."

"The victims were both taken to a west London hospital. The woman was treated for small burns to her shoulder and neck and has been discharged from hospital."

"The 18-year-old man suffered severe burns to his neck, face and shoulder and has also left hospital."

"His injuries are not life-threatening, but may be life-changing."

After the attack the teenager ran into a nearby Shell garage where Paakeerthan Thillainadesan worked.

He said he saw the young man run inside and grab a medium sized bottle of Evian water from a fridge while he was on the till.

The 31-year-old said: "Somebody came in and took the water for his face. He put the water on his face. It was a little burnt. It was a red colour. On one side. This man was a black man."

Asked how many bottles he said: "Maybe two or something. The water was on the floor inside. There was too much sound coming from the water. All the water was on the floor."

He added he did not recognise him from the area and said he inside for "about two or three minutes."

He continued: "Another two people came in, and they

took him away. They had ID cards. They took him outside but they looked worried."

He said he was unsure what ID cards they had with them, but they were round their necks.

"The ID card guy called somebody and he was gone. A woman came in after one hour, and came in and asked how much was the water and then paid."

He added he did not see a woman who was hurt.

A spokesman for Hammersmith and Fulham Council said: "Our local police force has an excellent record in tracking down offenders and bringing them to justice. We are confident they will catch the perpetrator of this despicable act."

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: "It is very strange. You don't expect it in this area, no way. Not in Fulham. But I guess it could happen anywhere. It's just one of those things."

"But especially coming days after that night club in-

cident. I know it's probably not related, but it just seems very odd."

"My family have lived in this area for 40 years. Generally it's a safe area. My wife and kid go out for walks, and don't really have any issues."

George Cheesman, 85, who lives in a block of flats across the road, said: "That is unusual for round here, very unusual. There is never any trouble. It is very quiet."

Pensioner Ann Clark, 78, who lives across the road from the scene of the attack, questioned how someone would have got hold of such a dangerous substance.

She said: "I am very shocked, because it's something that doesn't happen here. It just doesn't happen here, not something like that."

"But then again, it doesn't really happen anywhere. It's just lately there has been the odd one, like the nightclub. It is frightening."

"You cannot let it get to you. When you do go out, you have to be on your guard."

Woman denies stalking claim

A STUNNING stalker claimed she was pregnant and bombarded her City investor ex she met on Tinder with more than 400 calls, it was alleged in court.

Blonde Mariia Pihlajamaki, 24, is accused of phoning property investor Rory Buck 108 times in just 24 hours, as well as ringing his doorbell constantly and delivering hand written letters to his home in trendy Notting Hill.

Ten days after their five month fling came to an end Finnish-born Pihlajamaki claimed she was pregnant and even produced a bogus letter from a clinic as proof.

Mr Buck, 31, who works for Gramercy Europe Property, a massive investment company, is now so scared of his ex-lover he no longer turns his lights on at home in case she turns up, magistrates heard.

Prosecutor Simon Maughan told Hammersmith Magistrates Court: "Mr Buck and the defendant met via Tinder in June 2016 and engaged in a casual relationship. On 18 November he texted the defendant and said he did not want to hang out anymore. But she said she was not going to let that happen and was going to come down to his flat to prevent this. On 19 November they met outside his workplace and she said she would not accept it or leave. He then returned to his apartment and the doorbell rang constantly and he did not answer it. At around 11 in the evening he returned to his apartment from dinner and she jumped out as if from nowhere."

"For the next two-and-a-half weeks he received a barrage of messages, handwritten messages and letters. On the 28 November she appeared again saying they needed to talk and told him she was pregnant."

"Mr Buck made a request for proof and on 30 November he received a hand delivered letter from a clinic but it was his understanding that the letter appeared not to be authentic."

"Rory was then out in London and the calls continued and he received 20, 30 calls and 20 voice messages a day."

"He has received 400 phone calls and several hundred texts and Whatsapp messages."

"The defendant's phone was confiscated by police and during the time she was interviewed it was confirmed that her phone had called his number 108 times in 24 hours."

"It was made obvious that he wanted nothing to do with this female but she did not accept that. He is scared to go about his day-to-day business, he is keeping some of the lights off inside his property because he is worried if the lights are on the defendant may turn up."

"A screen at the trial would alleviate fears and achieve the best evidence when being questioned."

Pihlajamaki, of Lancaster Gate, west London, pleaded not guilty to a charge of stalking without violence.

Chair of the bench Catherine Seddon said: "Special measures are granted in relation to Rory Buck for achieving best evidence and the defendant may not cross examine the witness."

Pihlajamaki was bailed with conditions that she does not contact Rory Buck and does not visit Elgin Crescent, W11 or his workplace in Bedford Street, WC2. A trial date has been set for June before Hammersmith Magistrates.

Driver who raged at DJ loses appeal

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A DRIVER who threatened to knock out Jeremy Vine during a foul mouthed rant caught on camera has been jailed after her appeal against her conviction failed.

Shanique Syrena Pearson, 22, threatened to knock out the BBC *Crimewatch* presenter in an abusive rant seen by millions after a video clip posted online by the Radio 2 DJ went viral.

Pearson was also seen making a 'gun' gesture at Mr Vine as he cycled home after presenting his daily Radio 2 show.

Mr Vine told a court how he was scared and feared for his safety as he was confronted by the furious motorist.

Mother-of-one Pearson appealed her conviction for one count of driving without reasonable consideration to other road users, and one of using threatening and abusive or insulting words or behaviour.

But she lost her appeal at Isleworth Crown Court and she was sentenced to a total of nine months in jail.

The altercation with Mr Vine took place last August when she was already serving a suspended sentence for theft, assault causing actual bodily harm and resisting arrest.

Judge Phillip Matthews told Pearson the suspended sentence would be activated.

Sentencing her, he said: "This is a bad case of loss of control by you, letting your anger take over. It has happened in the past."

For the offence of using threatening and abusive or insulting words or behaviour, involving Mr Vine, she was jailed for one month.

For the charge of driving without reasonable consideration to other road users and a charge of driving without

valid tax, to which she previously pleaded guilty, she received no separate punishment.

The court heard in October 2015, at Isleworth Crown Court she was sentenced to 14 months, suspended for 18 months for theft, assault causing ABH and resisting arrest for an offence dating back to December 2012.

She was stopped walking out of a shop in The Kings Road after being suspected of shoplifting, and kicked and bit the member of security and tried to bite a community police officer.

In mitigation the court heard since that offence she had become a mother and in the past had suffered domestic abuse.

Last week the suspended sentence was reactivated and she was sentenced to eight months to run consecutively, giving her a total of nine months.

Pearson, of Vauxhall, south London, was also ordered to pay a victims surcharge of £130 but no order was made for the costs of the appeal.

The mum-of-one was heard crying as she was led from the dock to the cells to begin her sentence.

Jail sentence 'a warning'

POLICE say the jail sentence for a woman driver who threatened to knock out *Crimewatch* presenter Jeremy Vine should act as a warning that road rage is 'unacceptable'.

Shanique Syrena Pearson, 22, was jailed for a total of nine months after threatening the presenter during an abusive rant seen by millions after a video clip posted online by the Radio 2 DJ went viral.

Detective Inspector Driss Hayoukane, of Notting Hill CID, said: "Road rage incidents like this are completely unacceptable."

"Threatening anyone with violence is unacceptable and a criminal offence."

"I hope this sentence serves as a warning and important reminder that all road users should be respected and those that make violent threats will be found and brought before the courts."



Shanique Syrena Pearson, 22, threatened to knock out the BBC *Crimewatch* presenter Jeremy Vine in an abusive rant seen by millions after a video clip posted online by the Radio 2 DJ went viral



Murder probe: police seek two suspects

TWO suspects wanted in connection with the murder of a Romanian man shot dead two days after arriving in London have been named by police.

Ionut Lazar, 28, was fatally shot in the chest when a group of men forced their way into an address in Shepherd's Bush.

Six months on from the murder, detectives have appealed to the public for help in tracing Adam Adeniran, 22, and 23-year-old Nadir Munasar.

Emergency services rushed to the scene on October 22 last year where the victim was found unconscious after suffering severe gunshot injuries.

Despite efforts by paramedics he was pronounced dead at the scene at around 2.40am.

Scotland Yard have released mug shots of the two suspects and say they should not be approached by the public.

A post-mortem examination two days after his death at Fulham Mortuary established the victim died as a result of a bullet wound to the chest.

Adeniran, of Shepherd's Bush, is described as black, about 5ft 10ins, of slim build, with a short black afro, a brown beard and a scar half-an-inch in length on the bridge of his nose.

Nadir Munasar, of White City, west London, is described as black, about 5ft 9ins, of slim build, with short dark hair.

A Met Police spokesman said: "Adam Adeniran and Nadir Munasar are wanted in connection with the murder of 28-year-old Ionut Lazar who was fatally shot only two days after he arrived in the UK from Romania."

"On Saturday October 22nd, 2016, police were called by paramedics at 2.40am to reports of a male unconscious at a residential address in Askew Road, Shepherd's Bush."

"Officers attended and Ionut was found suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. He died at the scene a short while later."

"A post-mortem on October 24 at Fulham Mortuary established the cause of death as a bullet wound to the chest."

"The two men detectives are keen to trace and speak with in connection with the incident are:

● **Adam Adeniran** is described as a black male, about 5ft 10ins, of slim build, with a short black afro, a brown beard and a scar half-an-inch in length on the bridge of his nose. He has links to the Westminster and west London area.

● **Nadir Munasar**, of White City Estate, is described as black, about 5ft 9ins, of slim build, with short dark hair.

"Adeniran and Munasar should not be approached by members of the public."

● Three people have already been charged with Mr Lazar's murder.



Nadir Munasar and Adam Adeniran are wanted in connection with the murder of Ionut Lazar

Screening test reduces newborn infections

A SIMPLE screening test for pregnant women reduced the rates of life-threatening infections in newborn babies by more than 80 per cent.

Research at Northwick Park Hospital in London shows that testing for group B Streptococcus reduces the rate of the infection in their babies by 83 per cent.

The results, published in the BMJ Open come just days after the National Screening Committee said there was "insufficient evidence" to introduce GBS screening for mums-to-be in the UK.

Group B Strep causes deadly diseases such as sep-

sis – blood poisoning – pneumonia and meningitis, which can claim the life of a baby in just one week.

Previously Northwick Park Hospital had one of the highest rates of group B Strep infection in newborn babies, almost three times the national average, despite following national guidelines.

To combat this worrying figures, Dr Gopal Rao, Consultant Microbiologist at the hospital, set up the screening programme in his busy UK multi-ethnic community to see whether this would help reduce the rate of group B Strep infection.

More than 6,000 pregnant women chose to have the test.

This involved taking two simple swabs (which the majority of women chose to do themselves at 35 to 37 weeks of pregnancy) – after being given information about group B Strep.

Dr Rao said: "Our hospital's rate of group B Strep infection was much higher than the national average, despite carefully following national guidelines. This meant we were seeing more and more babies sick with group B Strep infection."

"I looked at international evidence showing how well

screening worked overseas, and wondered if it could work as well in the UK.

"Our pilot study has demonstrated that not only is screening doable in a UK setting, it had an even greater effect than we had expected. We are delighted with our findings, and hope comparable results can be seen across the UK."

During the 22-month study, only three newborn babies developed group B Strep infection and only one of those mothers had been screened.

This was a fall in the rate of group B Strep infections in newborn babies of 66 per cent

overall, and 83 per cent in babies born to screened mothers.

Experts in the field have welcomed the research.

Professor Philip Steer, editor emeritus of *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, said: "This study reinforces international evidence that antenatal screening for group B Strep carriage is best practice."

Professor Steer explained: "This, coupled with the appropriate use of antibiotics, is highly effective at preventing group B Strep infection in newborn babies."

Sadiq aims to ensure markets thrive

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced plans to recruit a team of industry experts and business leaders to help preserve and grow London's vibrant markets.

The London Markets Board – the first of its kind in the capital – will ensure that markets continue to flourish, support growth in high streets and town centres, and remain vibrant attractions for all Londoners and visitors to the capital.

In London there are over 250 street markets, which are an important part of English culture. The Mayor wants to recognise their national value as he looks forward to the biggest-ever St George's Day celebrations in London this weekend.

The number of markets is increasing in London. In 2010 there were just 162 – and the Mayor has pledged to do all that he can to ensure their revival continues and that they remain a vital part of life in the capital. Since his election less than a year ago, he has invested in London's markets through the High Street Fund and London Regeneration Fund, as well as garnering support for community-run markets through his Crowdfund London initiative.



A thriving scene at Portobello Market

Picture: SWNS

The London Markets Board will advise the Mayor and Jules Pipe, the Deputy Mayor for Skills, Regeneration and Planning, on the delivery of a London markets strategy, and on action to support and promote the capital's wholesale, street and covered markets.

Mr Khan, said: "I'm a proud Londoner and a proud Englishman who has grown up with traditional street markets. Markets are deeply woven into the tapestry of En-

glish culture and nowhere is that more true than here in London. They are far more than a place to do your shopping – they are places where people meet and talk.

"I promised to be the most pro-business Mayor that London has ever seen which is why, as we lead up to St George's Day, I have pledged not just to preserve and protect London's markets but also to set up our very first London Market Board to help

ensure that these spaces thrive for the benefit of local entrepreneurs, small businesses and everybody who visits them."

As well as setting up the London Markets Board, the Mayor has tasked City Hall with examining the social and economic value of markets in London. A major report – 'Understanding London's Markets' – to be published later this year will outline the value markets bring to local

communities and London as a whole in relation to employment, skills and training, community cohesion, health and well-being and culture. It will include the first ever map of all of London's markets, which will be published online, allowing people to search for local markets and filter by functions such as market type and opening times.

In December 2016, the Mayor opened Well Street Market in Hackney, which relaunched thanks to money from his Crowdfund London scheme. The Mayor pledged £20,000, along with £8,000 from Hackney Council, to reach a total fundraising target of £81,134 needed to open the community market, where local people access healthy, affordable, good quality food as well as a Student Makers Market and live music stage.

The London Regeneration Fund is investing £1 million in Romford Market to build a high quality new market house, reposition and modernise the stalls, create a less cluttered market place, and allow for a larger number of traders to operate. Romford Market was established in 1247 by Royal Charter as a sheep market. Cattle trading ended in the late 1950s but the market continues to act as a focal point of the town, attracting customers from around

London and beyond.

Sue Terpilowski OBE, London Policy Chair, Federation of Small Businesses, said: "Markets play an integral role in the fabric of London society. They are more than just a place to do business – they are a place to socialise, are part of our capital's heritage and provide cultural benefits to London's tourism offering. They provide a good starting point for many new businesses as they discover key intelligence about their target market. It is a great way to learn about customers and business skills and are an integral part of the growth journey for many businesses."

Graham Wilson OBE, Chief Executive of the National Association of British Market Authorities, said: "London has a rich variety of markets and the Mayor's decision to establish a Markets Board recognises the importance of markets and the vital role they play in many aspects of London life. The Markets Board will provide the ideal opportunity to raise the profile of markets and address some of the issues that are important in securing a successful future for markets. The Markets Board is the beginning of a new era for markets and one that everyone associated with markets welcomes with great anticipation."



What's a typical day at Ellesmere House? Sprucing up the garden

At Ellesmere House care home we support residents to get the most out of every day. We also believe in sharing our expertise.

Join our next free event:

Parkinson's awareness

Wednesday 10th May 2017, 2pm - 4pm

Free event

Ellesmere House is pleased to welcome Nick Ephgrave from Parkinson's UK, who will be sharing information and advice to help those affected by Parkinson's and their loved ones.

The event will also include:

- Expert guidance for improving life for those affected by Parkinson's
- A chance to meet our friendly team and take a closer look at our home
- Complimentary refreshments

For more information or to book your free place please RSVP on **0333 434 3025** or email lorelai.shepherd@careuk.com

Ellesmere House
9 Nightingale Place, Chelsea,
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careuk.com/ellesmere-house



Police warn they may be forced to shoot terrorists at the wheel

BY LWN REPORTER
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POLICE have warned they may have to shoot terrorists who use cars as weapons when carrying out attacks.

After the outrages in Westminster, Nice and Berlin, the tactics of armed officers in such circumstances will reportedly have to change.

Simon Chesterman of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) said officers had previously been told not to shoot drivers of moving vehicles because of the risk of potential additional dangers.

He said: "We've seen some very horrible and different tactics lately involving vehicles and lorries. Within our policy, we used to talk about not shooting at a moving vehicle because of the danger we might cause if we fired at a driver. But if the vehicle is being used as a

weapon in the first place, there aren't many tactics available in relation to stopping it, particularly a very large lorry.

"Driving a vehicle in front of it for example is not going to stop it. So you need to shoot the driver."

Officers now have ammunition to penetrate doors and windows, he added.

Four innocent people were killed on Westminster Bridge when Khalid Masood mounted the pavement in a car and drove into pedestrians on March 22.

Mr Chesterman added: "We have the ability to move much quicker to resolve situations. Previously the approach was to locate, contain and neutralise. Now it is to locate and confront. Our tactics are more aggressive."

It comes as the NPCC announced that since last year the number of firearms offices in England and Wales has in-

creased by 640 – largely financed by a £143 million Home Office programme.

The plan is to recruit around 1,500 extra officers in total by the end of next year, across the 43 Home Office forces. Some of these will specialise in responding to ongoing terrorist incidents.

Mr Chesterman acknowledged that with armed policing being a voluntary role, recruiting, training and retaining officers remained a challenge.

"Officers who serve as part of firearms units are volunteering themselves for an immensely difficult and dangerous role that will put them in harm's way.

"They naturally have concerns about the impact their job could have on their families. They need to know they will be supported in the rare instance that they might discharge their firearm," he said.



The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry arrive at the Global Academy in west London

Ferrari crash driver charged

THE driver of a £208,000 Ferrari has been charged following an incident that left seven teenagers injured.

Witnesses described "horrible" scenes after the incident, involving a 2015 Ferrari 458 Speciale and several people on a pavement in Battersea, south London, just before Christmas.

Seven teenagers were taken to hospital following the incident, two of whom – a 17-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl – were detained for further treatment.

Eye witnesses described what they saw as the incident unfolded near the world famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home on Monday, December 12. One person was found on the other side of the two-metre railings.

The Ferrari driver stopped at the scene and was initially arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Now police have charged 36-year-old Andrew Kwon in connection with the incident.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Andrew Kwon, 36, of Gatliff Road, Chelsea, has been charged with driving without due care and attention.

"This follows a collision in Battersea Park Road on Monday December 12th. Seven people were taken to hospital for treatment to injuries – all were subsequently discharged."

Kwon has been bailed to appear at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court in June.

Oxford Street: fewer buses

THE number of buses on London's Oxford Street will be almost halved to reduce congestion and air pollution.

Transport for London (TfL) confirmed that 23 bus routes will be altered, reducing the amount serving Europe's busiest shopping district by 40 per cent.

Some buses will start and finish at Park Lane, Trafalgar Square and Tottenham Court Road rather than travelling along Oxford Street.

The changes will be implemented this summer, ahead of the east-west Elizabeth line rail link opening in December 2018.

Mayor Sadiq Khan has pledged to pedestrianise Oxford Street by 2020.

Leon Daniels, TfL's director of surface transport, said: "As our city changes around us, we need to ensure the bus network changes too. Making sure we have the right level of buses in central London is key to keeping our city moving."

Jace Tyrrell, chief executive of New West End Company, said: "It is essential that there is genuine traffic reduction to ensure the West End retains its position as a world class retail destination."

But Becki @bexta wrote: "I'm confused, why are people upset Nicki Minaj has Westminster Bridge in her new vid ... too soon?"

Five people were killed, including Police Constable Keith Palmer, and dozens of others were injured when Khalid Masood, 52, drove a car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before entering the grounds of the Palace of Westminster with a knife, where he was shot dead.

After the attack, the US rapper wrote: "May God protect everyone in London. Hate hearing this sad news. Sending my condolences to the victims' families."

Hold the hoses

THE current spell of dry weather could lead to drought and even a hosepipe ban, the Environment Agency warned.

Officials have admitted that the dry weather could lead to "drought management measures", especially in the South East.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove		W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Road	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Co-op Store	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Awonians Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

Pop star under fire over Bridge video

SINGER Nicki Minaj has come under fire for releasing her new music video featuring scenes on Westminster Bridge just weeks after the terror attack.

The video for *No Frauds* shows the star rapping while sitting on the bridge and wearing a headdress and slinky, beaded outfit.

It had been reported that Minaj would be cutting the scenes, which were filmed a day before the attack, from the video, which also stars Lil Wayne and Drake.

But the film, which shows the Houses of Parliament in the background and opens with a shot of Big Ben, still features the London landmark.

@beverley3007 said on Twitter: "Out of all the places in London who's choice was it film at Westminster?"

@ethanxrhi wrote: "I

Fashion boss admits wildlife offences

BY LWN REPORTER
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A VEGAN fashion guru who has dressed Rihanna, Jay Z and Kanye West has admitted illegally selling the skulls and shells of endangered animals from his boutique.

Sasko Bezovski, 48, who is co-owner of trendy clothing label Kokon to Zai, flogged spur thighed tortoise and green turtle shells and a rare freshwater crocodile skull worth £420.

The products, which included the bill of a knifetooth sawfish worth £450, were sold as fashion accessories alongside items from top designers including Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen at the store just off the Portobello Road in west London.

Magistrates heard Bezovski, whose most famous creation was the swan dress worn by Björk to the 2001 Oscars, was also displaying the skull of a North Sulawesi babirusa, a pig found in the islands of Indonesia.

The illegal items were displayed among other fashion accessories including python and crocodile handbags worth up to £4,000 each.

Hammersmith Magistrates Court was told that Bezovski – who claims to be an “animal lover” – also had more than 45 illegal items including the skulls and shells, which he had purchased from antique fairs, markets and car boot sales.

Carly Loftus, prosecuting, said: “On July 15th last year officers from the Wildlife Crime Unit attended Kokon to Zai, a shop that sells animal products.

“The defendant was not present at the time but officers spoke to a manager and a number of items were seized.

“The items that were seized were a false gharial crocodile skull on display for £420.

“Another was a knifetooth saw fish valued at £225 in the shop.

“A green turtle shell was also seized and valued at



Sasko Bezovski leaves Hammersmith Magistrates Court last week. The vegan fashion guru, who is co-owner of clothing label Kokon to Zai, left, admitted illegally selling the skulls and shells of endangered animals from his boutique. The products were sold as fashion accessories alongside items from top designers Picture: SWNS



£450, several decades old. There was also a babirusa skull. He had bought them at antique fairs.

“In interview the defendant maintained it was only a small part of his business and 45 items suspected to be on the endangered list were also seized, many of these items were listed on Annex B.”

Bezovski, who appeared in

court wearing a black suit jacket, pleaded guilty to offering for sale items listed in Annex A of endangered species regulations.

His partner sat in the public gallery and kissed him on the head as they left the court.

Judge Caroline Johnston heard that the boutique had previously been raided by police in 2009 when officers had

seized three monkey skulls, but Bezovski had not been prosecuted.

Ms Loftus said: “Police attended his premises in May 2009 and seized three monkey skulls that were being offered for sale, the skulls were donated to the natural history museum.

“He was not prosecuted. “He has continued to commit this offending.”

She added: “It is difficult to put a value on these items can gauge an idea from the price tags what the defendant was hoping to revive from them.

“Other items on sale in the shop including python and crocodile skin bags, those items came to around £4,000.”

The freshwater crocodile Sunda/False Gharial is native to the rainforests of south east Asia and listed as a vulnerable species on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The Knifetooth Sawfish lives in the Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea to Australia while the endangered Green Turtle is one of the world's largest sea turtles.

The fashion label was set up by Bezovski and co-owner Marjan Pejowski and is a favourite with A-list stars including Katy Perry as well as DJs Diplo and A-Trak.

Sunyana Sharma, in mitigation, told the court: “Mr Be-

zovski is extremely ashamed and disappointed to be standing before this court today.

“He prides himself on being an animal lover and has a number of rescue dogs as well as being vegan.

“He has a keen interest in natural items and antiques.

“They were not displayed in a clandestine fashion. He believed them to be legitimate and they were bought in Shoreditch, Portobello, Kemp-ton and other well known car boots.

“He wrongly assumed that he could sell them in them and was not aware that he needed certification.”

Bezovski was fined a total of £4,255 after pleading guilty to one count of offering for sale or keeping for sale specimen of species listed in Annex A of the Control Of Trade in Endangered Species – COTES – regulations at Kokon to Zai on July 15 last year.

He was charged under regulation 8 (1) and (8) of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997.

Bezovski, of Warwick Avenue, Maida Vale, west London, was ordered to a pay £4,000 fine as well as a Government surcharge of £85 and a victim surcharge of £170.

He ran from the court build-ings into a waiting car without comment.

Antiques quarter revamp bid

BY LWN REPORTER
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A PLAN to rejuvenate a struggling “hidden gem” arts and antiques district in Marylebone and turn it into a rival to Portobello Road market has been supported by Westminster councillors.

An ambitious strategy for the cluster of up to 100 dealers on Church Street, off Lisson Grove, will be launched at a traffic-free fair on June 18.

It follows a tough period for the area, which also hosts a Monday to Saturday general street market, after rents soared by up to 80 per cent in 2015 and several traders went out of business.

Despite being a favourite shopping haunt for stars such as Kate Moss, Keira Knightley and Stella McCartney the

market has a relatively low profile — compared with its world-famous competitor in Notting Hill — that the local authority wants to boost.

Dealers hope the project will draw in wealthy shoppers from St John's Wood, Regent's Park, Fitzrovia and even Mayfair, who have never before visited one of central London's less affluent quarters close to the once notorious Lisson Green estate.

Westminster council, which owns around 80 per cent of the properties in the area, hopes the market will act as a catalyst for its 20-year, £1.2 billion regeneration blueprint for the Church Street ward, being launched this summer.

As part of the plan future council rent reviews have been settled to keep costs

manageable over the next 10 years, and the authority has pledged to favour art and antiques tenants over other uses when shops come up for lease.

Dealer Leon Young, who has run Young & Son in Church Street for the past 17 years and leads the dealers' association, told *Antiques Trade Gazette*: “This event is a pilot and if it is a success it could become a regular event. Following a difficult period when there were losses on the street, we have now turned a corner. Westminster have responded to the dealers and listened.”

The east end of the street has more than 20 antiques shops and the 41-year-old Alfies Antiques Market arcade — the biggest of its kind in London.

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Patrick goes to Antarctica in family car

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE great-grandson of legendary explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton has become the first person to travel across Antarctica – in a family car.

Patrick Bergel battled snowstorms, merciless terrain, dangerous crevasses and temperatures, which plunged as low as minus 28, for the epic adventure.

He covered more than 3,500 miles at an average speed of just 16.5mph to commemorate the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's heroic Trans-Antarctic expedition of 1914-17.

And the tech entrepreneur, from London, completed the 30 day expedition from behind the wheel of a near-standard Hyundai Santa Fe.

Shackleton had been beaten to the Pole by Roald Amundsen but set out to cross the entire continent.

When his ship sank in pack ice, the team lived on the ice for more than a year until Shackleton sailed a lifeboat for 720 miles to South Georgia, from where a rescue could be launched.

Patrick, 46, said: "I'm not a polar explorer. I'm an indoor guy. This was a proper expedition with a challenge to accomplish that nobody else had done before."

"The driving experience is quite incredible. There are degrees of whiteout where you can't see three feet, or you can't see ten feet in front of you, but that's not necessarily a problem depending on what your terrain is."

"On relatively flat ground you just go down to 5-10km/h and try to follow the path in front of you."

"But generally, because there's no visual stimulus and your body's connected to the vehicle, your brain's not being fed enough information so it goes a bit haywire. You also start to make up things."

"It's normal to start hallucinating, seeing trees and forests around you, but it's just dirt on the windscreen."

"In one area, a giant crevasse field, we had to rope up the vehicles to make sure if one fell in it could be recovered by the others. We had one scary moment there - but we managed to get through okay."

Patrick was part of a small team who spent December driving for 20 hours a day, with details on the adventure only revealed on Thursday.

He travelled from Union Glacier to the South Pole before following the Leverett Glacier and the Transantarctic Mountains, past smoking Mount Erebus volcano, to the Ross Ice Shelf and McMurdo.

The journey was carefully plotted on GPS and locations of potential danger areas



were reviewed in detailed meetings with experts at Union Glacier before departure but there were still plenty of pitfalls along the way.

While they only averaged 16mph, at times they travelled at more than 60mph.

The car they used for the expedition was a "pretty standard" Hyundai Santa Fe, which used the factory-spec 2.2-litre diesel engine, gearbox, front differential and driveshaft.

Engineers had to fit the Santa Fe with special tyres which run on one-tenth of the normal road tyre pressure so they can get on top of the snow rather than plough through it. The suspension had to be adjusted to cope with the new tyres.

The only other modifications were to increase the size of the fuel tank and convert it to run on Jet A-1 fuel which was the only fuel available on the continent.

Patrick was helped by Gisli Jónsson, from Arctic Trucks, who prepared the event and is one of Antarctica's most experienced driving experts.

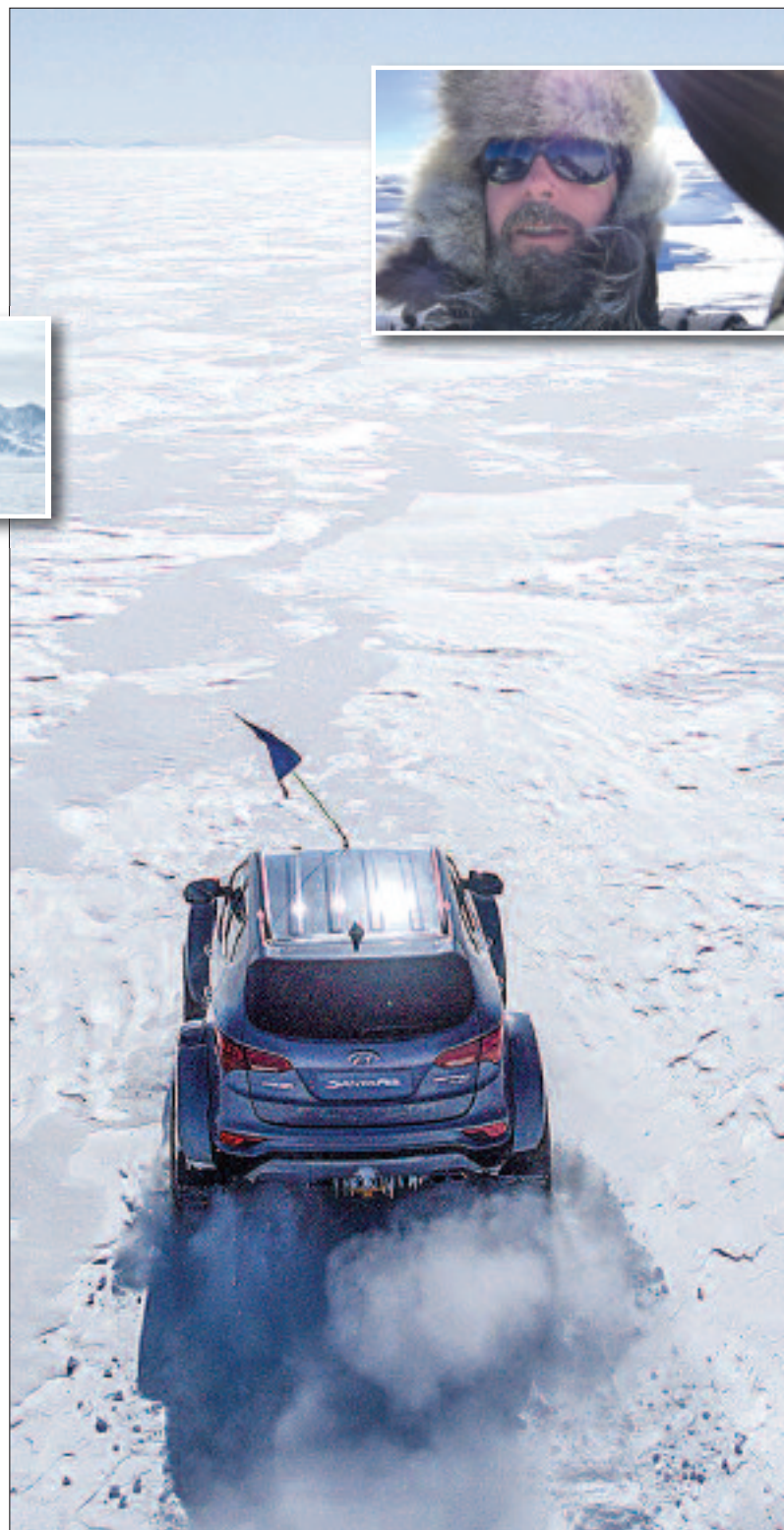
Gisli said: "People who have a lot of experience of Antarctica know what it does to machinery: basically, anything and everything falls apart. Even the big machines crack up and break apart. This was the first time this full traverse has ever been attempted, let alone doing it there and back. A lot of people thought we would never ever make it and when we returned they couldn't believe we'd actually done it."

Patrick added: "Some sections were unbelievably beautiful and only a few dozen people actually get to see the Trans-Antarctic Mountains."

"That was the point at which nobody in a wheeled vehicle had been beyond."

"Getting to the South Pole was a special moment. The fact that this was a place my great-grandfather tried to get to more than once and I was there, it felt like a genuine connection."

"It is quite something to have been the first to do this in a wheeled vehicle, but what we did was one thousandth as hard as what they did. But it's still quite something to be the first to do this in a wheeled passenger vehicle. I felt quite sad to be leaving the place as well as glad to have been there. I'd love to go back."



The great-grandson of legendary explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, Patrick Bergel from London, has become the first person to travel across Antarctica – in a family car

Pictures: SWNS



Londoners calling time on boozers

LONDON has lost one in four of its pubs – more than 1,200 boozers – in just 15 years, reveals a shock new report.

The old fashioned East End boozer – epitomised by the fictional Queen Vic in *EastEnders* – is dying out with the worst hit areas losing over half their pubs since 2001, according to figures from London Mayor Sadiq Khan's office.

Barking and Dagenham has lost 56 per cent of pubs in the borough since 2001, while Newham saw 52 per cent of its watering holes shut down and Waltham Forest lost 44 per cent.

But hipster hangout Hackney, also in East London, bucked the trend by being the only borough in the whole of the capital that actually saw an INCREASE in the number of pubs since 2001 with numbers rising by three per cent.

There were 4,835 pubs in London 15 years ago, but by last year this had plummeted by 25 per cent to 3,615 – an average loss of 81 pubs per year, or more than six per month.

Other badly-affected boroughs include Croydon and Lewisham in south London which saw 45 per cent and 41 per cent respectively of pubs close, along with Hounslow in west London which lost 42 per cent of its boozers.

Landlords Michael and Linda Norris, who have run The China Hall pub in Rotherhithe, south east London, for 34 years are among publicans facing a threat to their livelihoods from property developers.

Boasting a history of nearly 300 years, the pub was sold to developers in 2013, who recently offered them a new ten-year lease for double what they currently pay, meaning they faced losing both their home and livelihood from the much-loved pub.

Historians say the influence of pub culture can be found in everyday London life – from the five tube stations and the multitude of areas around the capital named after pubs, to the tales of iconic English characters who have frequented and been inspired by the many drinking establishments across the city.

But the dramatic decline in the number of pubs in the capital shows they are threatened by several issues, including rises in business rates, conflicts with residents and developers and the relaxation of permitted development rights in 2015 – which allows certain types of development to go ahead without planning permission.

Property company CLTX has been told that it must rebuild 'brick by brick' a historic popular pub that it demolished illegally in July last year.

The Carlton Tavern in Maida Vale, west London, was demolished by the developer and it was ordered to rebuild the Grade II listed pub by Westminster Council.

Wandsworth Council also ordered Udhay Amin to rebuild the demolished Alchemist pub in Battersea in July 2015.

Geoff Strawbridge, the Campaign for Real Ale's regional director for Greater London, said: "Pubs play a vital part in many people's lives, providing a place to meet and socialise and feel part of a community."





Major Adrian Coles MBE, TD, the Founder of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, died last month

Tributes are paid to Chelsea's 'Major Hedgehog'

A SERVICE of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of a Chelsea Pensioner who founded the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, was held at St Paul's Church, Knowbury, Shropshire on Wednesday, April 12.

Major Coles MBE TD, who was affectionately known as Major Hedgehog, died on March 23 at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, where as a Chelsea Pensioner he had resided for the last four years of his life.

A large congregation at-

tended and the church was at full capacity. The service was attended by a host of civic dignitaries, serving and former military personnel, several deputy lieutenants and justices of the peace.

As well as senior current and former councillors and representatives from numerous organisations and bodies. Pensioners from The Royal Hospital Chelsea donned their distinctive scarlet coats and tricorn hats and travelled from London accompanied by Major Coles' Captain of In-

valids, Major Philip Shannon.

Local branches of the Royal British Legion joined forces to form a guard of honour as the coffin, draped with the Union Jack and carrying Major Coles' tricorn hat and medals laid on a velvet cushion, entered the church followed by Major Coles' three children and six grandchildren.

At the graveside, Royal British Legion Standards were raised and lowered to The Last Post and Reveille.

Major Coles was buried next to his wife Pam who died in 2011 and his son David who died aged three and a half in 1976.

Major Coles' family said they were deeply touched by the kindness and support they had received, Major Coles' eldest daughter Annie said: "I have never been more proud, my father was a wonderful man who worked tirelessly for the local community and for the County of Shropshire, he will be greatly missed."

Fay Vass, Chief Executive of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society said "Adrian was unique. A kind gentleman with a quick sense of humour, endless determination and a strong sense of duty."

"We owe a debt of gratitude to him for the compassion he showed to our prickly friends and the foresight he had to begin a Charity dedicated specifically to them. We will miss him very much, but will continue our good work in his memory."

Pubs parade football trophy

TWO pubs within a mile of Stamford Bridge have pulled off a preview of the Premier League Trophy on Sunday, April 30, coinciding with a critical match day in the contest for the Premier League crown.

As Chelsea play Everton at Goodison Park, The Goose on North End Road will be parading the trophy from 3pm for two hours, as the result that could see Chelsea stretch their lead to seven points, or have them hanging on by the skin of their teeth, comes in.

Meanwhile, as the trophy moves further up the road to Britain's best sporting pub – as awarded at the Great British Pub Awards 2016 – The Famous Three Kings, second place Tottenham Hotspur will be running their socks off to Arsenal in the hope of catching the front runners before the trophy is brought out for fans at 7pm.

Manager of the Famous Three Kings Paul Eastwood said: "It's a great opportunity for Chelsea fans to rub a bit of good luck on the trophy they hope to be lifting in the coming weeks – although we are a football friendly pub for all teams so I'm sure there'll be lots of photograph taking for prosperity from other clubs' fans!"

Fans can turn up and have their photograph taken with the trophy, Chelsea fan or otherwise, casting their own wishful spell on the silverware which will be awarded to one of the top clubs on or before May 21.

Runway fight: councils pay

FOUR councils under Heathrow Airport's flight path spent £350,000 on legal fees

challenging the planned third runway, according to the BBC.

Hillingdon Council's leader said it would provide funding to challenge it for "however long it takes to win this battle".

Wandsworth, Richmond and Hillingdon councils spent £300,000 from their general funds on legal action.

Windsor and Maidenhead Council spent £50,000 from its development fund.

The details were obtained using Freedom of Information laws.

Council general funds are where money for most council services is drawn, with funds raised from council tax and central government grants.

The four councils failed in an attempt to challenge the decision to build the runway at the High Court in January.

Robert Barnstone, of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said: "Heathrow expansion will cost British taxpayers up to £18 billion in order to pay for infrastructure upgrades that would be required to deliver the project."

"We already know the Government has already spent more than £10,000 per day in 2015 and 2016 on assessing Heathrow expansion, not to mention the cost of the glamorous consultation that has been running for the past two months."

The four local authorities are expected to launch legal action on the government's plans for Heathrow expansion later this year.

Live longer, get on your bike!

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS who cycle to work are reducing the risk of cancer and heart disease by 40 per cent, according to new research.

A study of more than 250,000 British people found those who got on their bike were 41 per cent less likely to suffer a premature death.

Their risk of developing a tumour or heart disease was reduced by 45 and 46 per cent, respectively, according to the findings published in The BMJ, compared to those who took a "non active" commute such as the train or bus.

The findings add to mounting evidence of the dramatic benefits of exercise to health. Meanwhile, people who walked to work were 27 per cent less likely to suffer cardiovascular disease and 36 per cent less likely to die from it.

But it did not protect against cancer - or premature death overall.

The study analysed data from 264,337 participants from UK Biobank, which contains detailed information on adults aged between 40 and 69.

They were asked questions about their usual mode of commuting to work and then followed up for five years.

The new cases of cancer, heart attacks and deaths in that period were assessed and related to their method of transport.

The results suggest policies designed to make it easier for people to commute by bike may present major opportunities for public health improvement.

Dr Jason Gill, of the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences at the University of Glasgow, said: "Cycling all or part of the way to work was associated with

substantially lower risk of adverse health outcomes.

"Those who cycled the full length of their commute had an over 40 per cent lower risk of heart disease, cancer and overall mortality over the five years of follow up.

"If these associations are causal, these findings suggest that policies designed to make it easier for people to commute by bike, such as cycle lanes, city bike hire, subsidised cycle purchase schemes and increasing provision for cycles on public transport may present major opportunities for public health improvement."

The greater benefits seen with cycling compared with walking may be because cyclists covered longer distances, the intensity of the effort is more and they had higher levels of fitness.

Dr Gill said: "What we have shown is cycling reduces the risk of premature death from

all causes, including heart disease and cancer.

"Cyclists get bigger benefits to their health than walkers, and there are probably a number of reasons for that.

"What we need now is a step change in the way we develop transport systems like we have seen in the Netherlands and Scandinavia where cycling is normal and cities are built around it.

"It is the biggest study into modes of commuting and their effect on health than all the previous ones put together and shows conclusively that cycling to work reduces the risk of cancer and heart disease.

"The main benefits to health are seen in middle aged and older people. It is no use doing plenty of physical activity when you are young if you do not keep it up.

"Going to the gym becomes more difficult as we get older because of time constraints

so building exercise into your daily routine is a way of getting around this."

Co-author Dr Carlos Celis-Morales said: "Walking to work was associated with lower risk of heart disease, but unlike cycling was not associated with a significantly lower risk of cancer or overall death.

"This may be because walkers commuted shorter distances than cyclists – typically six miles per week, compared with 30 miles per week – and walking is generally a lower intensity of exercise than cycling."

A study of 45,000 middle aged Danes last year found those who consistently spent 90 minutes on their bike a week were 24 per cent less likely to develop angina or have a heart attack over the next 20 years. And those who spent just half an hour cycling a week had a 16 per cent reduced risk.

London slumps in survey of best cities for millennials to call home

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON has been ranked only 16th – below Lille, Zurich and Montreal – in a global league table of the best places for millennials to live in.

The capital scored particularly badly – coming 90th out of the 100 cities analysed – for the availability of affordable housing, and a lowly 81st for the number of music festivals compared with its population.

It failed to top any of the 16 categories but came second for “tourism” behind only Venice and equal third for “nightscene” after Berlin and Paris. But bizarrely London ranked only 34th for “transport” – judged on the scale of metro and tram networks, availability of Uber, and existence of a bike-sharing scheme – behind relatively tiny centres such as Auckland in New Zealand and Brno in the Czech Republic.

On immigration tolerance, London, one of the world's most famously diverse conurbations, did even worse, and was ranked only 51st.

The capital also came only 47th for employment prospects behind economic “minnows” such as Graz in Austria and Canberra in Australia.

Ömer Küçükdeire, managing director of Nestpick, a website for finding furnished apartments, commented: “Millennials travel more at a younger age than any of their preceding generations; this gives them the possibility to find the perfect city for their personal needs. With ageing populations cities must cater to the Millennial demographic in order to sustain a thriving economy.”

The overall winner was Amsterdam followed by Berlin and Munich.

Feeling down about that? Turns out you're not the only one. Londoners have got the blues according to the latest data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), which measured people's wellbeing across the UK. The ONS asked people on a scale of zero to ten (zero is ‘not at all’ and ten is ‘completely’) how satisfied they were with their life, to what extent they think their life is worthwhile and how happy and anxious they felt. The folks at the ONS produced mean ratings for the wellbeing scores, and the figures show that six of the 13 places ranked the unhappiest in the UK are in – you guessed it – London.

Lewisham was named the glummiest borough in the city,

followed by Greenwich and Haringey. While Islington, Enfield and Hackney also made into the unhappiest 13 places in the country.

The report also looks at levels of anxiety and ‘life satisfaction’ and found that average ratings of anxiety had increased across the country, while average life satisfaction, worthwhile and happiness ratings remained unchanged. On a lighter note, at least we managed to dodge number one spot for the most unhappy place in the UK – that title went to Corby.

Meanwhile, mice, eye contact on public transport, tube strikes – there are lots of things to fear living in London, but according to new research, even our lunch makes the list. Almost one in five Londoners says they're too scared to take a lunchbreak at work for fear of being judged negatively by their colleagues, according to research by wellbeing charity CABA.

The study, which surveyed 2,006 people working both part and full time across the UK, found the number of people who worry about taking a lunch break in London – 19 per cent – is higher than any other region in the UK and the national average of six per cent.

Mayor warns bus operators on living wage

THE Mayor of London has demanded that all bus companies working with Transport for London ensure all of their staff are paid the London Living Wage after it was discovered that some trainee drivers were not receiving it.

Every bus company is being ordered to guarantee that they pay their staff the wage after the Unite union helped to discover that some drivers in training were not being paid the full amount – directly in breach of their contractual obligations.

It was discovered that a number of the trainee drivers were actually being paid less than the wage of £9.75 an hour by their bus company, and then given a bonus when they qualified to drive the routes.

The number of trainees affected is likely to be several hundred. Some 2,500 people have been through six-week driver training courses in the last 12 months.

Sadiq Khan and TfL are furious that this practice has been going on, and are demanding that any company involved puts this right immediately. It is a contractual requirement that these trainee drivers are paid at least the London Living Wage, and the companies are being told they must act now.

Last year, the Mayor announced an increase in the London Living Wage from £9.40 to £9.75 to help London workers. He also secured a fairer system for bus drivers' pay to ensure consistency for drivers working across all of London's bus companies and a new starter driver minimum wage of £23,000.

Mr Khan said: “I'm absolutely furious if even a single trainee bus driver is still being paid below London's Living Wage. We've worked hard to ensure drivers are treated fairly and get the pay they deserve, so to hear that any company may have broken their contractual obligations is completely unacceptable. I thank the Unite union for helping to bring this to my attention and I expect this to be put right immediately.”

Claire Mann, TfL's Director of Bus Service Delivery and Operations, said: “Payment of the London Living Wage (LLW) has been a contractual requirement for all bus companies operating in London for some time. We expect the LLW to be paid to all of their staff, including trainee bus drivers.”

“We have contacted all of the companies involved to remind them of this and seek urgent clarification that this is being adhered to.”

Statue project

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has announced that Turner Prize-winning artist Gillian Wearing has been commissioned to create the statue of suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square.

Gillian will take this milestone project forward with funding from the Government, following the Prime Minister's announcement of support for the statue earlier this month.

The statue will be both the first of a woman, and the first created by a woman, to stand in Parliament Square.



Almost one in five Londoners say that they're too scared to take a lunchbreak at work for fear of being judged negatively by their colleagues, according to research by wellbeing charity CABA

New police chief to take modern route

THE new Scotland Year chief, Cressida Dick has pledged to modernise the Met. She wants to see more digital policing to help put more people in touch with local officers.

She has also promised a more open police force with plans to increase the number of ways the public can report a crime, police officers will be given more technology to help investigate offences.

During her first interview, Dick told the *Evening Standard*: “I want to see traditional policing with a modern flavour.”

“I am completely committed to local, visible policing, but we have to modernise.”

“There are such opportunities for people to interact with police through the dig-

ital sphere that we have not achieved yet.”

She also added: “We are having more online reporting and we have people filling forms remotely. I think it opens up a whole new way of interacting with us.”

Ms Dick, who has worked for both the Met and the Foreign Office, also told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that she was unsure whether the numbers proved a “trend” due to changes in how the force records crime.

“But if it is the case that gun crime and knife crime is going up then that is of huge concern to me,” she added. “It will mark my commissionership, trying to bear down on violence in general and those two crimes in particular.”

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Images from last year's Chelsea Flower Show serve as a colourful reminder of what delights await visitors to the event next month. Right: actress Joanna Lumley at the 2016 show



Chelsea's colour wonder show promises to be full of surprises

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FLOWERS, the Queen and 6,000 sandwiches – the famous Chelsea Flower Show is just around the corner.

But what can we expect from this year's event and how can gardening enthusiasts get hold of tickets?

The colourful event will run from Tuesday May 23 to Saturday May 27.

However if you want to visit, you should be aware that Tuesday and Wednesday are reserved for members only.

Typically celebrities and the royal family, often including the Queen, will go on these days to see the preview before the general public. As the name suggests, the event is being held in Chelsea, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The showground will be transformed with a vast array of colourful flowers with plenty to see and do.

If previous events are any-

thing to go by, it will be treat on the taste buds as well as the eyes.

At the 2015 event, 23,823 glasses of champagne were served, along with 6,000 sandwiches and baguettes and 43,447 cakes and baked goods.

On May 23, Chelsea show visitors will be transported to the colourful gardens of Spain, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, China and Japan, among others.

Guests can explore the Great Pavilion, which will house 100 displays from the world's best nurseries and florists.

There will also be a range of show gardens to give visitors inspiration for their own outdoor spaces.

This year there will also be a garden dedicated to the 1.7 million British and Commonwealth citizens who died in the First and Second World Wars.

TV horticulturist David Domoney has designed the commemorative space, working with the Commonwealth

War Graves Commission who look after 23,000 cemeteries and memorials of those who died.

The event kicks off at 8am each day, and runs all day until 8pm on the weekdays and 5.30pm on the Saturday.

If you are looking to bag yourself some beautiful flowers to take home, you will need to go towards the end of the event to make a purchase.

Flowers go on sale around 4pm on the Saturday.

Tickets are now on sale. Currently non-members can buy up to four tickets for the show, for the Thursday May 25, Friday May 26 and Saturday May 27 shows.

RHS members can buy tickets for all of the days of the show, with discounted prices on offer.

Tickets are priced by time of entry.

For non-members, a full day costs £63 in advance, £41 for a 3.30pm entry and £35 for a 5.30pm entry.

For RHS members, a full day costs £49 in advance, £36

for 3.30pm entry and £27 for 5.30pm entry

On the preview days, Tuesday and Wednesday, RHS members pay £61 for all-day entry, £39 for 3.30pm and £29 for 5.30pm.

Only children over the age of five are allowed to the event, and they must buy an adult price ticket.

As the event is in central London, it is recommended that people use public transport to reach the event.

The closest underground tube to the event is Sloane Square, which is 10-minute walk away from the venue.

You can pre-book for parking in Battersea Park, which is a 20-minute walk away, or take a shuttle bus from Victoria.

The shuttle will run throughout the day from 7am to 8pm during the weekdays, finishing at 7.20pm on the Saturday. The shuttle service costs £6 for a return ticket of £4 for one way. Alternatively, check out TFL website for public buses to the area.

■ One of London's finest townhouse hotels, The Kensington, says it will be inviting hotel guests and members of the public to celebrate the Chelsea Flower Show in style. From May 15 to 27, The Kensington has partnered with Perrier-Jouët champagne to launch a pop-up bar outside the hotel's entrance, as well as an exclusive, floral-inspired Champagne pairing dinner on Thursday May 25. ■ Former *Great British Bake Off* judge Mary Berry will swap her cooking utensils for gardening tools to help create a garden for the Chelsea Flower Show.

The 82-year-old will join radio host Chris Evans to work on an allotment-style garden filled with more than 50 types of fruits, vegetables and edible flowers, including leeks, beetroot, rhubarb and violas. Miss Berry, who keeps a beautiful garden at her Buckinghamshire home, promised the plot would feature some of the 'tastiest plants growing in the UK today'.

Car smashes into vehicles

AN elderly driver who lost control smashed into a Mercedes SLR and a top-of-the-range Jaguar, causing an estimated £250,000 in damage.

The driver may have swerved to avoid an oncoming car before hitting the accelerator of her 4x4 and ploughed into six parked cars and a converted bus used for disabled people.

Witnesses ran out of the shops at Sunbury Cross Retail Park, west London, after hearing several loud bangs in quick succession – fearing it could have been a bomb.

Mike Dibble, 52, was visiting the shopping centre when he heard the 'almighty crash,' before seeing the carnage, and the wrecked top-of-the-range Jaguar F-PACE.

He believes the elderly driver may have swerved to avoid a vehicle driving in the opposite direction when she slammed her foot on the accelerator instead of the brake.

Civil servant Mike, who lives in Sudbury said: "There was an elderly lady, probably in her late sixties, who was coming round the car park in a 4x4 type car."

"People think a car might have been coming the other way and she swerved to avoid it when she took out a load of cars. She just ploughed through them – the fronts have been taken right off."

"They weren't cheap cars either – there was a Mercedes and a Jag – but she hit about six. She was in a lot of shock I think and was taken away in an ambulance, the police were there too. It was just so bizarre, everyone was absolutely shocked. How you could do that much damage in a tiny car park is ridiculous."

Mike said he was lucky that his five year old Vauxhall Astra parked just a few cars away from those damaged, was not hit. He said people were shocked at the loud bangs and stunned at the ensuing carnage.

Mike added: "It's funny in retrospect but not for the people whose cars were there. She must have absolutely slammed her foot down, I can't believe those cars were written off. There must be at least £200,000, if not £250,000, of damage. There was smoke going off everywhere and we all heard bangs. It sounded like a bomb had gone off, there were lots of bangs in quick succession and people ran out of the shops to see what had happened – you wouldn't expect that noise in such a small car park."

Gum wars

CHEWING gum makers must step up and foot the cost of cleaning up the discarded blobs plaguing virtually all of London's high streets, council bosses say.

Gum spat out by their chewers gets trodden into pavements and roads making it difficult for street cleaners to get rid of the unsightly mess.

Although the average cost of each stick is just three pence to buy, it costs councils up to 50 times that to remove.

They have to use specialised equipment to remove the hardened non biodegradable gums at a cost of £1.50 per square metre at an annual bill of over £60 million a year.

Recent research by Keep Britain Tidy found 99 per cent of main shopping streets and 64 per cent of all roads and pavements are stained by gum.

Terror victim's wife flies home

THE injured wife of a man killed in the Westminster terror attack has returned home to the United States.

Melissa Cochran had been visiting London from Utah with her husband Kurt, 54, to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary when they were caught in the carnage on Westminster Bridge.

Her brother Clint Payne has since said doctors cleared his sibling to fly back home to the Salt Lake City suburb of West Bountiful last week, and revealed that she is healing faster than medics expected.

During the 82-second atrocity on March 22, Kent-born Khalid Masood drove a rental car into unsuspecting pedestrians before fatally stabbing PC Keith Palmer, 48, in the Palace of Westminster's forecourt.

Mrs Cochran, 46, suffered a broken leg and rib and a cut to her head during the attack, while her husband died after being thrown from the bridge.

Three others, retired window cleaner Leslie Rhodes, 75, Aysha Frade, 44, and Romanian tourist Andreea Cristea, 31, also died as a result of Masood's murderous rampage.

On April 5 Mrs Cochran, who attended in a wheelchair, joined the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry at a service for the families and survivors of the attack, held at Westminster Abbey.

In an interview with the BBC she described her husband as the "love of my life", and said she does not feel "any ill will" towards Masood.



Londoners enjoyed the sunshine on the south bank last week. The rest of the week could well become colder with a widespread risk of night frost. Sunshine and heavy showers are anticipated, with a chilly feel where it is cloudy or windy. The driest and brightest weather is expected to be in the west, probably spreading to the rest of the country by the Mayday Bank holiday Picture: SWNS

Cycling could save your life

CYCLING to work almost halves the risk of cancer and heart disease, according to new research.

A study of more than 250,000 British people found those who got on their bike were 41 per cent less likely to suffer a premature death.

Their risk of developing a tumour or heart disease was reduced by 45 and 46 per cent, respectively, according to the findings published in The BMJ, compared to those who took a "non active" commute such as the train or bus.

The findings add to mounting evidence of the dramatic benefits of exercise to health. Meanwhile, people who walked to work were 27 per cent less likely to suffer cardiovascular disease and 36 per cent less likely to die from it. But it did not protect against cancer – or premature death overall.

The study analysed data from 264,337 participants from UK Biobank, which contains detailed information on adults aged between 40 and 69.

They were asked questions about their usual mode of commuting to work and then followed up for five years.

The new cases of cancer, heart attacks and deaths in that period were assessed and related to their method of transport. The results suggest policies designed to make it easier for people to commute by bike may present major opportunities for public health improvement.

Dr Jason Gill, of the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences at the University of Glasgow, said: "Cycling all or part of the way to work was associated with substantially lower risk of adverse health outcomes. Those who cycled the full length of their commute had an over 40% lower risk of heart disease, cancer and overall mortality over the five years of follow up. If these associations are causal, these findings suggest that policies designed to make it easier for people to commute by bike, such as cycle lanes, city bike hire, subsidised cycle purchase schemes and increasing provision for cycles on public transport may present major opportunities for public health improvement."

The greater benefits seen with cycling compared with walking may be because cyclists covered longer distances, the intensity of the effort is more and they had higher levels of fitness.

Dr Gill said: "What we have shown is cycling reduces the risk of premature death from all causes, including heart disease and cancer. Cyclists get bigger benefits to their health than walkers, and there are probably a number of reasons for that. What we need now is a step change in the way we develop transport systems like we have seen in the Netherlands and Scandinavia where cycling is normal and cities are built around it.

"It is the biggest study into modes of commuting and their effect on health than all the previous ones put together and shows conclusively that cycling to work reduces the risk of cancer and heart disease."

The NHS advises that people do 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week, such as walking or cycling, or 75 minutes of strenuous exercise such as running or football.

It's official! Air pollution really gets right up Londoners' noses

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AIR pollution in London really does get right up people's noses – by causing year-round sniffles, a study shows.

Living in towns or cities full of toxic fumes pumped out by diesel engines and power plants may be the reason for walking about with a soggy tissue all the time.

Air quality in London breached EU standards within the first week of the year and the capital has even recorded worse pollution than Beijing.

Campaigners have called for diesel cars to be scrapped and the increasing popularity of woodburning stoves has also been blamed for the worsening conditions.

Breathing in dirty air has long been linked with nasal and sinus problems and now scientists have proved it – dubbing it 'asthma of the nose.'

Experiments on mice found those exposed to concentrated

levels of smog particles for 16 weeks had four times more white blood cells indicating inflammation in fluid flushed out from their noses.

Professor Murray Ramanathan, of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said: "We've identified a lot of evidence breathing in dirty air directly causes a breakdown in the integrity of the sinus and nasal air passages in mice.

"Keeping this barrier intact is essential for protecting the cells in the tissues from irritation or infection from other sources – including pollen or germs."

Researchers know smog, ash and other particulates from vehicles and industrial smokestacks raise rates and worsen symptoms of asthma – which affects the lungs in the lower respiratory tract.

But they had little evidence of similar damage to the upper respiratory system – which includes the nose and throat.

The new findings published

in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology have broad implications for the health and well-being of people who live in large cities and industrial areas with polluted air.

Prof Ramanathan said: "In the US regulations have kept a lot of air pollution in check but in places like New Delhi, Cairo or Beijing – where people heat their houses with wood-burning stoves – and factories release pollutants into the air our study suggests people are at higher risk of developing chronic sinus problems."

It's estimated more than 12 percent of adults suffer from chronic sinusitis that can cause congestion, pain and pressure in the face and a stuffy, drippy nose. It may lead to depression, lost productivity and chronic fatigue.

In the study the researchers exposed 38 male mice to either filtered air or concentrated Baltimore air with particles measuring 2.5 micrometers or less which ex-

cludes most allergens like dust and pollen. The aerosolised particles – although concentrated – were 30 to 60 percent lower than the average concentrations of particles of a similar size in cities like New Delhi, Cairo and Beijing. Half the rodents breathed in filtered air and the others polluted air for six hours per day, five days a week for 16 weeks.

The researchers used water to flush out the noses and sinuses of the mice, and then looked at the inflammatory and other cells in the flushed-out fluid under a microscope.

Further tests on the cells flushed out of the nasal and sinus passages also found proteins considered direct biomarkers for inflammation. These attract white blood cells called eosinophils and some were up to ten times higher in the pollution exposed mice.

Prof Ramanathan said: "Inflammation that attracts eosinophils is what happens in the lungs of people with

asthma so essentially the chronic exposure to air pollution in mice is leading to a kind of asthma of the nose."

His team also examined layers of cells along the nasal passages and sinuses under a microscope and found the surface – or epithelium – was, notably, 30 to 40 percent thicker in mice that breathed in polluted air.

A thicker epithelium is another sign of inflammation in humans and other animals, said Prof Ramanathan.

His team will continue to study the specific molecular changes that occur when the sinus and nasal barriers are breached because of air pollution – as well as investigate possible ways in which to repair them.

The World Health Organisation says 92 percent of the world's population lives in places where air quality levels exceed its safety limits.

They also claim that some three million deaths a year are linked to exposure to outdoor air pollution.

Queen's favourite birthday presents

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS the Queen celebrates her 91st birthday, the world's most important people have been wracking their brains over this simple question – what exactly do you get the Queen for a present?

Our head of state – the most popular woman in the world – is said to like practical gifts, but not overly extravagant ones.

The monarch's sons and daughter have apparently delighted the royal matriarch over the years with household items such as a washing-up apron and a casserole dish, while the Duchess of Cambridge once presented her with some home-made chutney.

Kate revealed she was left stumped over what to buy the Queen for Christmas.

"I thought 'I'll make her something'. Which could have gone horribly wrong. But I decided to make my granny's recipe of chutney," the Duchess said.

"I was slightly worried about it, but I noticed the next day that it was on the table."

The Duke of York bought the Queen her first mobile phone many years ago, while former US president Barack Obama once gave her an iPod. As Elizabeth II marks her birthday, here are some of her favourite presents over the decades, as chosen by the Press Association.

PEGGY THE PONY

Princess Elizabeth's first horse – a Shetland pony called Peggy – was a gift from her grandfather, King George V, when she was four years old.

She started riding lessons when she was three-and-a-half, and when she was five her mother led her on Peggy to a meet of the Pytchley Hounds at Boughton Cover.

Peggy inspired the Queen's lifelong love of horses. The



Queen still rides and is a horse racing and breeding expert.

SUSAN THE CORGI

Eighteen-year-old Elizabeth was thrilled to be given her first Pembroke Welsh corgi – which she named Susan – by her parents for her birthday.

Synonymous with the breed, the Queen has owned more than 30 during her reign and many were descended from Susan.

The Queen's first corgi was rather partial to going for servants' legs and once bit a royal clockwinder on the an-

kle – but Susan was so loved by the Princess that she even accompanied her on her honeymoon in 1947.

The Queen now has only one corgi left, Willow, as well as Candy and Vulcan – two dorgis – a cross between a corgi and a dachshund.

BIG MOUTH BILLY BASS

The Queen was so amused by Billy Bass the singing fish – a mounted fish which moves and mimes the words to *Take Me To The River* or *Don't Worry, Be Happy* – that she was apparently given six more for Balmoral. She was

introduced to the gift, which became popular in the 2000s, by the Princess Royal – and one apparently stands on top of the grand piano in the Queen's Scottish home.

She was also sent a Rocky Lobster, a lifelike singing crustacean which performs *Do Wah Diddy Diddy* and *Rock The Boat*, and the Queen is said to sing along to the tunes.

A VENTRILOQUIST

Prince Harry delighted his grandmother with a special birthday gift on her 90th birthday by arranging to perform a short cabaret with ventriloquist Nina Conti at the Queen's party.

Harry had the Royal Family in fits of laughter as he acted as Conti's dummy during the Windsor Castle bash.

SENTIMENTAL JEWELLERY

A suite of sapphire gemstones was given to Princess Elizabeth on her wedding day by her father.

George VI's gift to his eldest daughter in 1947 – 70 years ago – was a glittering necklace, dating from 1850 and made of 16 large oblong sapphires surrounded with round diamonds, with a pair of matching sapphire and diamond drop earrings.

The Queen has added a tiara and bracelet to the collection, and has worn the jewels many times.

Our monarch by numbers

As the Queen celebrates her 91st birthday, here's a look at Elizabeth II in numbers.

1 ranking in the list of world's longest-serving current monarchs. She moved to first place after the death of the King of Thailand in 2016.

3 number of dogs the Queen has left – one corgi, Willow, and two dorgis, Candy and Vulcan.

4 children – The Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex.

8 grandchildren – Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor and Viscount Severn.

5 great grandchildren – Isla and Savannah Phillips, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, and Mia Tindall.

13 prime ministers in office

since the start of her reign. The first was Winston Churchill (1951-55).

16 number of countries of which she is monarch – the UK and 15 Commonwealth realms.

16 general elections during the Queen's reign so far. The upcoming June 8 vote will be the 17th since she acceded to the throne.

21 age when she married the Duke of Edinburgh in November 1947.

23 number of waxworks Madame Tussauds has created of the Queen.

22 age when Princess Elizabeth had her first child, Prince Charles.

25 age when she became Queen on February 6 1952.

37 age when the Queen had her last child, Prince Edward, in 1964.

65 years on the throne so far. The Queen reached her Sapphire Jubilee in February

2017.

70 years of marriage the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are due to celebrate this November – their platinum wedding anniversary.

72% proportion of her life that Elizabeth II has been Queen.

601 charities, organisations and military regiments of which the Queen is patron. She handed over 25 patronages last year.

660 investitures – the Queen has personally held more than 660 investitures since the start of her reign.

23,816 days on the throne on April 21 2017.

1,450,000 approximate number of people who have attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace or the Palace of Holyroodhouse since 1952.

£1,771,441 the Queen's earnings from race horse wins since 2013 in GB flat races.

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Royals return to the classroom to promote mental health campaign

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry watched a national radio show being broadcast live when they visited a school preparing students for a future in the media industry.

William, Kate and Harry chatted to young people from the Global Academy in Hayes, west London, helping out with the production of Heart radio's breakfast show presented by Jamie Theakston and Emma Bunton from the school.

The royal trio appeared fascinated as the young people sat at a desk filled with an array of buttons, switches and lights, as senior production staff oversaw the programme.

The presenters were behind glass in a studio and William joked: "Funny thing to be locked in a box talking to a big red microphone."

While Theakston quipped: "I'm not sure the royal party has been this close to a Spice Girl."

The Cambridges and the prince were visiting the school to officially launch the institution which opened its doors to pupils last September and to promote their Heads Together mental health initiative.

William, Kate and Harry have spent the past few days championing their Heads Together campaign, which aims to encourage the nation to talk about their mental health problems or be a sympathetic ear for someone in need.

On Wednesday Harry commented on his decision to speak out about the issues he faced after his mother's death, saying it was "only right" he aired his experiences as he wanted to encourage others to "smash that stigma" around talking about mental health.

He was praised by the duchess, who described him as "brilliant" for revealing in an interview with *The Daily Telegraph* that he spent nearly 20 years "not thinking" about the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and eventually got help after two years of "total chaos".

Heads Together is a mental health campaign led by The Royal Foundation in partnership with YoungMinds and seven other charities.

It aims to challenge mental health stigma and change how it is perceived. It was made the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon Charity of the Year and will be working alongside ten runners with mental illnesses during the annual race.

Heads Together commissioned a YouGov poll which found nearly half (46 per cent) of 5,003 adults, questioned in February, have talked recently about mental health, with a quarter chatting about their own psychological problems.

Since April 2016 the royals have been heavily involved in the campaign. The trio have been part of the campaign to work against the negative attitudes to talking about mental health. They commissioned ten films of celebrities talking about their problems and the times when talking about it made a huge difference.

The royals said: "Since we launched Heads Together last May, we have seen time and time again that shattering stigma on mental health starts with simple conversations.

"When you realise that mental health problems affect your friends, neighbours, children and spouses, the walls of judgment and prejudice around these issues begin to fall.

"And we all know that you cannot resolve a mental health issue by staying silent. Attitudes to mental health are at a tipping point.

"We hope these films show people how simple conversations can change the direction of an entire life."

William still feels shock at Diana's death

THE Duke of Cambridge has spoken out about the shock he still feels 20 years after his mother was killed in a car crash in Paris.

Prince William, who was 15 when Princess Diana died, said the loss of his mother was "such an unbelievably big moment", adding: "the shock never leaves you".

He spoke to Rhian Burke, whose one-year-old son George died suddenly from pneumonia in February 2012. Five days later, her husband took his own life.

They were being filmed as part of BBC documentary *Mind Over Marathon*, which explored mental health issues with London Marathon runners.

Ms Burke, 39, asked the Duke whether her other two children would eventually heal.

"You were obviously a little bit older than my children [when Diana passed away], but I obviously worry about them growing up, they'll be OK won't they?" she said.

William replied: "With a mum like you they'll be absolutely fine. That's true, they will be. Because you're aware of all this, you're already a step ahead. Once you start rationalising it, and understand, I'm really angry and really upset about something, then you can, I think, relativise it and deal with it."

"You'll provide the blanket of stability and understanding they need. I can't tell you enough, you doing this is an incredibly big, positive step, and I really hope it brings you what you need."

Elsewhere in the film, he said: "The shock is the biggest thing, and I still feel it 20 years later about my mother. People think shock can't last that long, but it does. It's such an unbelievably big moment in your life and it never leaves you, you just learn to deal with it."

It comes after the Duke teamed up with Lady Gaga, who suffers from PTSD, in a bid to end the "shame" of speaking out about mental health. The pair were filmed having a FaceTime chat about how important it is for people to feel they can speak openly about mental illness.

At a private screening of the documentary, a clearly moved William said: "Wow. I am speechless, actually, and quite emotional. I'm going to take a moment to calm myself down. I really think this is a pivotal moment in the change to mental health, and that we are on the cusp of something really big."

"As you can see, I have my own reasons for being involved in mental health, after what happened to my mother when I was younger, but equally the charitable work that I do at the moment and the areas I am involved in, it all comes back to mental health."

"We need to make mental health normal, and we need to treat it in the same way we treat physical health. It has to be seen in the same way."

Earlier this week, Prince Harry gave an emotional interview in which he revealed he sought professional help four years ago after struggling with the grief of Diana's death in August 1997, when William and Harry were just 15 and 12.



The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry arrive at the Global Academy in west London

Prince Harry's plea endorsed by experts

MENTAL health experts have joined Prince Harry in appealing to men to stop suffering problems in silence, and to seek help, as statistics show they often fail to do so – with deadly consequences.

In an attempt to break the stigma surrounding the issue, the heir to the throne revealed he underwent counselling to cope with negative feelings following the death of his mother when he was 12 years old.

He told *The Telegraph* how instead of being open about his grief he "shut down all his emotions" to the point where he was "very close to a complete breakdown on numerous occasions".

"My way of dealing with it was sticking my head in the sand, refusing to ever think about my mum, because why would that

help?" he said. "And then [I] started to have a few conversations and actually all of a sudden, all of this grief that I have never processed started to come to the forefront and I was like, there is actually a lot of stuff here that I need to deal with."

Prince Harry said he finally acted when his brother, Prince William, pushed him to address the issue.

He said he has met with a professional "more than a couple of times" and described the experience as being "great".

He is now encouraging more people to reach out to others in times of need and to normalise the conversation about mental health.

"The experience I have had is that once you start talking about it, you realise that actually you're part of quite a big club," he said.

Hysteria
by Terry Johnson

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GREENWICH THEATRE LONDON

Talk of the town

WIMBLEDON-BASED actor Cameron Blakely is bringing his strange family to town – and the kooky clan are likely to leave a riot of mirth in their wake.

Cameron will join the cast as the head of the household Gomez for the UK premiere of the musical stage adaptation of *The Addams Family*, which comes to the New Wimbledon Theatre in May.

Originally a cartoon strip in *The New Yorker*, the morbid dynasty was turned into a hit television series in the 1960s and went on to achieve further notoriety when adapted into a film franchise in the 1990s, which starred Anjelica Huston as Morticia, Christopher Lloyd as Uncle Fester, Christina Ricci as Wednesday and Raul Julia as Gomez.

The cast for the musical, which will visit Wimbledon as part of a nationwide tour, is no less impressive and Cameron is joined by *EastEnders* star Samantha Womack, YouTube sensation Carrie Hope Fletcher and comedian Les Dennis, who has shaved his head in readiness to take on the role of the frightful Uncle Fester.

Cameron told me about the family and said: “They’re sort of stuck really. The minute you go into their house, you don’t know what century you’re in and you wonder how long they have been around.

“There’s something quite vampiric about them as well as romantic, with this honour, this code they all have.

“They are a fully functioning family as oppose to other families who think of themselves as normal and are actually completely dysfunctional.”

We meet the family a few years on from their last adventures and the melancholic Wednesday is 18.

She has fallen in love for the first time with a respectable young man, something which has the potential to rock the tight-knit family unit. So Gomez is forced to keep her relationship a secret from his beloved wife Morticia.

Cameron explained: “It’s a show that anyone can relate to. Anyone who’s a parent can definitely relate to this story.

“They just happen to be the Addams Family so they happen to go for things that are dark



Nicky Sweetland
talks with
THE ADDAMS
FAMILY star
Cameron
Blakely

The cast of *The Addams Family* Picture: Ed Baker

rather than light.”

When the couple’s families meet for dinner, it results in a hilarious banquet filled with misunderstandings and macabre undertones. With all of the famed and favourite characters also involved,

including Pugsley, Lurch and, of course, crazy Uncle Fester, the musical promises to be cacophony of calamity.

Cameron is almost certain the show will be a hit with audiences.

He said: “It’s got beautiful music, it’s really funny and it’s very moving as well, almost to the point that you can forget it’s *The Addams*

Family. We have wonderful people in it and a wonderful team behind it.

“Visually it’s stunning, it’s creepy and it’s kooky and everyone will love clicking their fingers.”

The Addams Family will run at the New Wimbledon Theatre from May 16 to 20. You can find more details at theaddamsfamily.co.uk.

Audra McDonald
Picture: Autumn de Wilde



REVIEW Audra McDonald Leicester Square Theatre ☆☆☆☆

WHEN you’ve won a whopping six Tony Awards you’re allowed to crow about it a bit – but Broadway leading lady Audra McDonald couldn’t be more humble, writes Nicky Sweetland.

In a series of performances at the Leicester Square Theatre, the singer shared music and stories from her illustrious career.

Fresh from providing the voice of the wardrobe in Disney’s *Beauty And The Beast*,

Audra is riding high on a wave of success.

But there is nothing wooden about this diva and alongside her friend and Broadway cohort Seth Rudetsky, her intimate show mixed exquisite musical performances with enthralling conversation.

From her stage exploits to motherhood, no subject was off limits.

And with her husband and fellow Broadway star Will Swenson putting in a guest appearance, the show had the real feel of a family affair.

Songs including *The Rose*, *You Don’t Bring Me Flowers* and *Climb Every Mountain*

from *The Sound Of Music* were performed with an ultimate grace and Audra’s strong traditional soprano voice completely satiated the auditorium.

The real highlight, however, was the encore when the acclaimed soloist sang *Summertime* from Gershwin’s *Porgy And Bess*. As soon as she hit the first note a collective gasp rang around the auditorium, such was the quality of the vocal.

Audra is returning to London this year to play Billie Holiday in *Lady Day* at Emerson’s Bar and Grill – and from this display it looks like a show not to be missed.

Talk of the town



PREVIEW

Toy Soldiers
at The Hospital Club,
Covent Garden



THE Hospital Club in Covent Garden will host the first solo exhibition in the UK by club member and photographer Simon Brann Thorpe, entitled *Toy Soldiers*.

As part of the Photo London VIP Programme, it is also a first solo showing for *Toy Soldiers* as a body of work, an important dialogue on war and conflict through conceptual art in this critical time of socioeconomic conflict and upheaval.

Recently receiving two nominations for the Prix Pictet Award, *Toy Soldiers* is a unique collaboration between a military commander and Simon in the creation of a unique allegory of modern warfare.

The series stages real soldiers, posed as toy soldiers, in this investigation into the impact, legacy and dehumanising effects of war.

Toy Soldiers is a powerful conceptual project on war and conflict that blurs the boundaries between documentary photography and art.

Simon explores the paradigm of colonial conflict through our cultural notions of freedom, nationhood and entertainment.

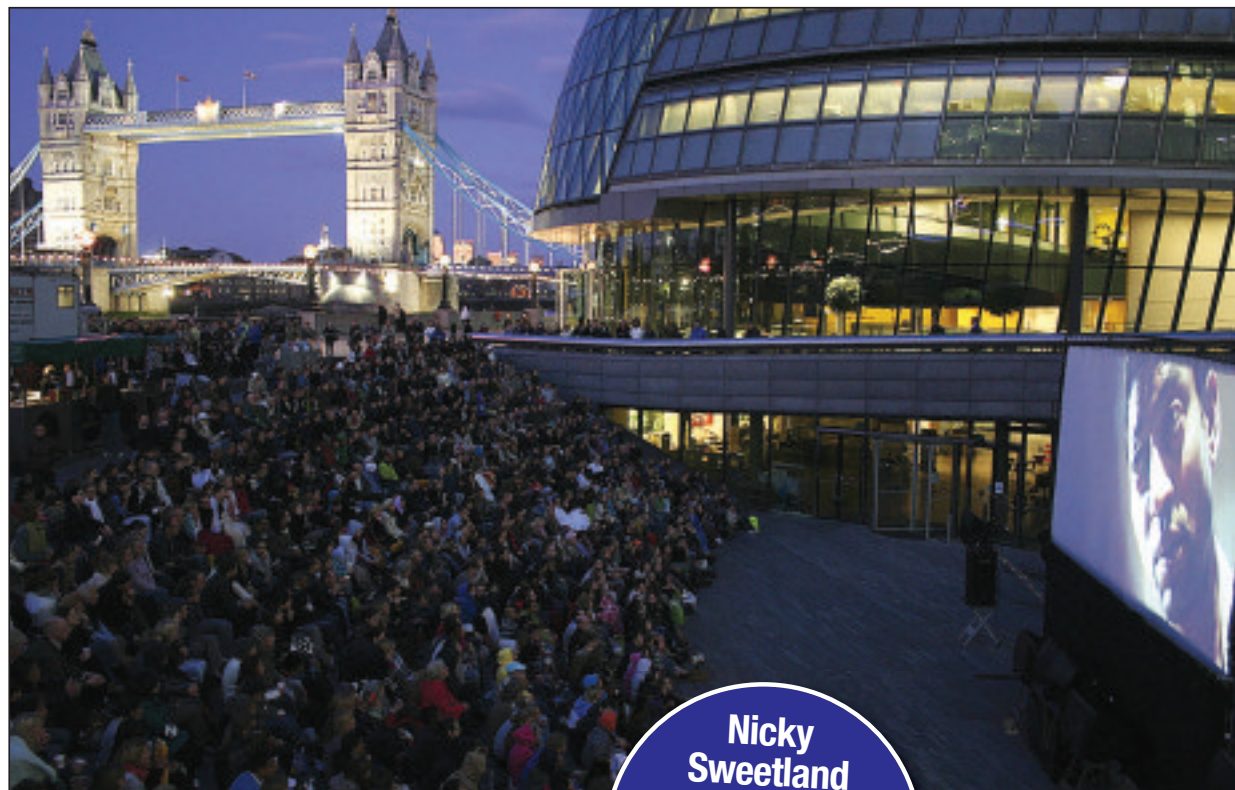
He creates a critical lens through which we view the projected metaphor of war games and reality reconstructed on to the little-known conflict in Western Sahara, known as Africa's last colony.

Sofia Vollmer Maduro, a Prix Pictet judge, said: "By captivating the viewer with the seemingly playful device of *Toy Soldiers*, Simon's images successfully counteract our growing desensitisation to images of conflict. Upon careful viewing, these striking images reveal their poignant message on the fate of victims of warfare, while alerting us to the impact on society of current trends that view war as a game."

Photo London was created to give London an international photography event befitting the city's status as a global cultural capital.

Now in its third edition, Photo London has established itself as a world-class photography fair and as a catalyst for London's dynamic photography community.

Toy Soldiers will be on display at The Hospital Club Gallery from May 19 to 21. See thehospitalclub.com for more details.



Nicky Sweetland
previews
LONDON BRIDGE CITY SUMMER FESTIVAL

LONDON'S largest free bridge-to-bridge festival is returning for a third year – and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. Set against the backdrop of some of the capital's most iconic riverside landmarks, the London Bridge City Summer Festival will run from Thursday June 1 to Thursday August 31 and will provide a picturesque central setting for an array of food, drink and live entertainment throughout the season.

The festival's programme will include large screens showing films and live streaming Royal Opera House performances, fitness and dance classes, Nightspot Cinema and more.

Sports fans can kick back in the sunshine and enjoy live screenings of Wimbledon, the World Athletics Championships, and the

ICC Cricket Champions Trophy. Cycling cafe Look Mum No Hands will be screening the Tour de France at a pop-up bar and hosting cycle speed dating.

For visitors seeking fun for all the family, there will be children's workshops, a lawn library, urban gardening, The Flying Seagull Circus, Gods & Monsters theatre production and performances and workshops from London Urban Arts. The Fantasy High Street will also be putting on an immersive Mad Hatter's tea party for children.

This unmissable schedule of entertainment will take place at four distinctive locations, running from London Bridge to Tower Bridge, the amphitheatre-style steps of The Scoop, the beautiful historic architecture of Hay's Galleria and the riverside promenade at The Pier.

London Bridge City will also host the return of the London Riviera, this year celebrating all things Mexican and featuring delicious dishes from Taco Revolution. Each venue will be bustling with activity seven days a week, from 10am until 10pm.

Summer revellers are invited to party it up en masse with some massaoke every Friday in June at The Scoop.

Full venue breakdown and festival programme will be confirmed at the end of April. See lbcsummerfestival.com.

PREVIEW

Driftwood – by Casus
at Underbelly Festival

INTERNATIONAL circus sensation Casus will bring their thrilling new show *Driftwood* to London for the first time, following rave reviews at the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The show will be performed as part of the Underbelly Festival and promises to be a colourful and turbulent concoction in which audiences can watch Casus bring a blank canvas to life and revel in our innate need for human contact.

Unique acrobatic shapes,

signature to Casus, abound in this journey of explosive encounters, hidden looks and humorous discoveries.

The company of *Driftwood* includes Johnny Brown, Jon Bonaventura, Shannon Vitali, Sarah McDougall and David Trappes.

Knee Deep, the previous show from Casus, won international accolades including best circus and physical theatre at the Adelaide Fringe Awards 2016, and was described as awe-inspiring by *The Guardian's* Lyn Gardner.

Driftwood will run for a limited season, from May 4 to June 4. You can find further details at underbellyfestival.com.

Casus bring Driftwood to the Underbelly Festival

Picture: Carnival Cinema



Talk of the town

FOR someone who writes musicals, the ultimate goal is for one of your shows to be presented in the West End or on Broadway. As of next month, the British songwriting partnership of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe will have not one but two of their shows in town when *The Wind In The Willows* joins *Half A Sixpence*.

With theatrical impresario Cameron Macintosh intent on the West End return of their stage adaptation of *Mary Poppins*, it looks like the revered musical coupling are on track to score a hat-trick of hits over the next 12 months.

But it's not just the big-budget theatrical spectacles where their hearts lie, however, and one of their first musicals, *Honk!*, has been enjoying an acclaimed run at the Union Theatre.

The show, which won an Olivier Award for best musical, beating *The Lion King* and *Mamma Mia!* when it was produced at the National Theatre in 2000, follows the story of the Ugly Duckling.

Lyricist Anthony told me of his surprise at the phenomenal success of the simple musical tale.

He said: "We originally wrote it in 1996 for the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. The Watermill theatre had ducks on its pond and so it felt like the perfect match."

The production at the trendy South London Off-West End venue has been getting rave reviews and Anthony is pleased with the results that director Andy Room has achieved.

"I saw it a few nights ago and what he's done with it is ever so imaginative."

Honk! isn't the duo's only musical with creatures at its centre, with adaptations of *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks And The Three Bears*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories* among their other works.

Anthony gained a degree in zoology before he decided to become a wordsmith. I asked if this is perhaps the reason that so many of their shows have a distinctly animal association.

He laughed and told me: "It was never my intention to get a degree in zoology just so I could write rhymes with every animal I could think of. It is a little by accident that there have been so many of them."

He told me that they were offered *Babe The Pig* but turned it down and decided to take on the task of turning *The Wind In The Willows* – which opens at the London Palladium this summer – into a musical because they were looking to do another collaboration with Julian Fellowes.

Julian had previously written the book for their stage reworking of *Mary Poppins* – and Anthony told me: "The *Wind In The Willows* felt a perfect fit for Julian and I just knew that George and I would know what to do with it."

Leading comedian, actor and presenter Rufus Hound stars as the amazing Mr Toad in the new musical based on Kenneth Grahame's much-loved children's classic. And producer Jamie Hendry has pledged to provide readers of all ages the opportunity to enjoy *The Wind In The Willows* by sending free copies of the novel to every school and library in London.

George and Anthony's other huge West End success has come in the shape of a somewhat unlikely remake of a show which was originally written as a star vehicle for Tommy Steele.

The fabulous revamp of *Half A Sixpence* has become a real favourite with London the-

atre-goers and has made a star of its leading man Charlie Stemp, who was recently nominated for an Olivier Award for his efforts.

It wasn't a show the pair initially jumped at the opportunity to redo, however. Anthony explained: "Cameron Macintosh had been on at us to do it for about seven years and I'd seen productions of it and just thought 'It's not one of my favourites'. David Heneker, who wrote the original, was so sweet to us in our early years and once we got into it we found we loved it more and more. It was a lovely job to do and we're really proud of it."

There are also some really exciting plans on the horizon which will further help to establish George and Anthony's West End domination, with two new musicals expected to hit the London stage over the next 12 months.

The first is based on a novel by Terry Ronald entitled *Becoming Nancy*, which Anthony explained is a very British story set in East Dulwich.

"It's about a boy at a comprehensive school who wants the part of Fagin in the school production of *Oliver!* but actually gets cast as Nancy because of his good singing voice. It's very funny and very rude."

The other show in the pipeline will have musical-theatre fangirls squealing with anticipation as the songwriting duo have developed a musical based on the 1991 film *Soapdish*, which they hope will be led by Broadway superstar Kristin Chenoweth.

The show is in collaboration with the original screenwriter, Robert Harling, who also wrote the screenplay for *Steel Magnolias*.

Anthony said: "It's kind of ready to go. We've done a couple of workshops in New York with Kristin Chenoweth and we're hoping that's going to happen, also potentially over here in the next 12 months."

"She (Kristin) wants to do an original role in a musical again because she hasn't originated a role since *Wicked*. She's got such an amazing voice and after the first workshop we literally wrote another song for her, so she can show off her vocal pyrotechnics."

It sounds like the pair's domination of the musical-theatre world in London is only set to increase over the next few years, which has come of something of a surprise to the talented team.

Anthony said: "George and I were saying it's as if our careers have been the wrong way round. We are both now in our mid-50s and we are more prolific now than when we were in our 20s. I guess it's just the way that it works. It takes an awful lot of time to establish a reputation and to establish the trust with producers to start producing your work. It's a fluke that so many came along at the same time last year, with *Half A Sixpence* transferring, *The Wind In The Willows* at the same time and Cameron bringing *Mary Poppins* back.

"It looks like we are going to have two or three shows on in the West End, which we never dreamed we'd get."

Honk! completed its run at the Union Theatre on Saturday. *Half A Sixpence* continues at the Noel Coward Theatre – see halfasixpence.co.uk/?s=ppc. *The Wind In The Willows* begins previews at the London Palladium on June 17 – see windinthewillows.themusical.com.

Nicky Sweetland talks with songwriter ANTHONY DREWE

Lyricist Anthony Drewe



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# Property

## Home loan borrowing is down

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MORTGAGE lending was down by nearly a fifth in March compared with a year earlier, figures from banks and building societies show.

An estimated £21.4 billion worth of home loans were handed out last month – marking a 19% decrease compared with March 2016, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) said.

The CML said mortgage lending appears to be in “neutral gear” – and it does not expect the general election on June 8 to have a marked effect on lending.

The sharp year-on-year fall in lending was expected, the CML said.

In spring 2016, there had been significant increases in activity as borrowers rushed to beat a stamp duty hike that was imposed on people buying second homes, including buy-to-let investors, on April 1

2016. The mortgage lending total for March 2017 was still a 19% jump compared with the previous month, with £17.9 billion worth of home loans advanced in February.

The CML said in total, around £59.1 billion worth of mortgages were handed out in the first three months of 2017, marking a 4% decrease on the fourth quarter of last year and a 6% decrease on the £63 billion lent in the first quarter of 2016.

CML senior economist Mohammad Jamei said: “Mortgage lending appears to be in neutral gear.”

“Our gross estimate for March is £21.4 billion and this is broadly in line with average monthly lending over the past year.”

“Within this aggregate level, there has been a shift towards first-time buyer and re-mortgage customers, away from home movers and buy-to-let landlords.

“We expect this profile to

continue over the short term, as low mortgage rates encourage existing borrowers to re-mortgage and government schemes help first-time buyers.

“We do not expect any marked effect from the general election.”

Howard Archer, an economist at IHS Markit, said: “We share the CML’s view that June’s general election is unlikely to materially affect the housing market.

“Consequently, we believe house price gains over 2017 will be limited to no more than 2.5% – and there is a very real possibility that it could come in lower than that.”

Jonathan Harris, director of mortgage broker Anderson Harris, commented: “The mortgage market continues to tick along with competitive products on offer to those borrowers who are getting on with the business of buying and selling, or re-mortgaging their homes.”



Roughly £21.4 billion worth of home loans were handed out last month – a drop of 19%

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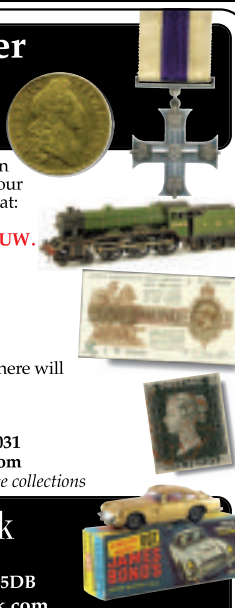
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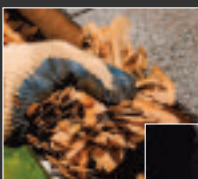
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## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FOR LICENSE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT

Ciro Guerra of 1A Eyot Gardens, London, W6 9TN has applied to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the variation of a premises license at Mari Deli 1A Eyot Gardens, London, W6 9TN. Variation sought to include the sale by retail of alcohol on the premises. No changes to existing permitted hours for licensable activities. Current licence permits: Sale by retail of alcohol. Off the premises. Monday to Sunday - 10:00hrs until 23:00hrs.

Anyone wishing to make a representation about this application must give notice in writing specifying the grounds of representation to FAO: London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Licensing Team, PO Box 66532, London W8 9GL or licensing@lbhf.gov.uk  
**TO BE RECEIVED BY 08 May 2017**

A record of the application details may be inspected at www.lbhf.gov.uk/licensing or by appointment (020 8753 1081) at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Environment Department Reception, 1st Floor, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 9JU.

Person making representation will be invited to attend in person a public hearing before a Licensing Sub Committee of the Council. It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

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The Joint Liquidators may be contacted care of BRNOTICE@bdo.co.uk quoting MJUP-AFRAMECVL

Dated 12 April 2017

William Matthew Humphries Tait,  
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## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (BEADON ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the running of H&F Eco fair to be held on the Lyric Square; it made an Order the effect of which temporarily suspends the loading bay on the above named road.
2. Whilst the event is in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the loading bay on the south-western side of Beadon Road, alongside the Lyric Square, shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 26th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. The event will commence on Wednesday 26th April 2017 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 19th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM NOTICE OF MAKING OF BOROUGH WIDE ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION REMOVING PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS RELATING TO BASEMENT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1)

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 ('GPDO').

**The Direction was made on 25 April 2017** and applies to the entire area of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (excluding the area designated as the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Area).

The Direction applies to the development described in the following classes of the GPDO:- The development referred to in **Schedule 2 Part 1 Class A** to the said Order not being development comprised within any other class that is to say:-

The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwellinghouse by way of a basement development, lightwells or any other development below the dwellinghouse or its curtilage.

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within that area unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and of a map defining the area to which it relates may be seen at the offices of the Council at the Duty Planner Room, 1st Floor Town Hall Extension, King Street, London, W6 9JU at all reasonable hours or can be viewed on the Council's website.

**Representations may be made concerning the aforementioned Article 4 direction between 25 April 2017 and 6 June 2017.** If you wish to make representations, you must do so by post to the Development Plans Team, Planning Division, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, 5th Floor Town Hall Extension, King Street, London, W6 9JU or by email to ldf@lbhf.gov.uk. Any representation must be received by 5pm on 6 June 2017 and include a name and a postal or e-mail address.

**The Direction shall come into force, subject to consideration of any representations received and confirmation by the Council, on 26 April 2018.**

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (HAMMERSMITH ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits certain vehicular manoeuvres in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle proceeding in an easterly direction along Hammersmith Road to turn right into Edith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 6th May 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 6th May 2017 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015

### LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

## NOTICE OF MAKING OF BOROUGH WIDE ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION REMOVING PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS RELATING TO CHANGES OF USE FROM OFFICES/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO RESIDENTIAL DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1)

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 ('GPDO').

**The Direction was made on 25 April 2017** and applies to the entire area of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (excluding the area designated as the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Area).

The Direction applies to the development described in the following classes of the GPDO:-

The development referred to in **Schedule 2 Part 3 Classes O and PA** to the said Order not being development comprised within any other class that is to say:-

**Class O** - Development consisting of a change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class B1(a) (offices) of the Schedule to The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of that Schedule.

**Class PA** - Development consisting of a change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class B1(c) (light industrial) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of that Schedule.

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within that area unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and of a map defining the area to which it relates may be seen at the offices of the Council in the Duty Planner Room, 1st Floor, Hammersmith Town Hall Extension, King Street, London, W6 9JU at all reasonable hours or can be viewed on the Council's website.

**Representations may be made concerning the aforementioned Article 4 direction between 25 April 2017 and 6 June 2017.** If you wish to make representations, you must do so by post to the Development Plans Team, Planning Division, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, 5th Floor Town Hall Extension, King Street, London, W6 9JU or by email to ldf@lbhf.gov.uk. Any representation must be received by 5pm on 6 June 2017 and include a name and a postal or e-mail address.

**The Direction shall come into force, subject to consideration of any representations received and confirmation by the Council, on 26 April 2018.**

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (MUNSTER ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Munster Road between its junctions with Fulham Road and No. 55 Munster Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Fulham Road, Rostrevor Road, Swift Street, Felden Street, Durrell Road, and Hestercombe Avenue.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 6th May 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 6th May 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways



# Public Notices

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (AEGON TENNIS TOURNAMENT) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic, suspend sections of parking bays, extend Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) D operational hours within part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, and introduce a one way traffic flow system in sections of roads as listed in the articles to this notice.
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between the north-western kerb line of Comeragh Road and its south-eastern extremity.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Whilst temporary works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed in order to facilitate the event build/breakdown works, the one-way traffic flow system which operates in Palliser Road between Margravine Gardens and Barton Road shall be suspended.
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between its junctions with Comeragh Road and its junction with Barton Road other than in a northerly direction;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Comeragh Road between its junctions with Palliser Road and Gledstanes Road;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Perham Road between its junctions with Gledstanes Road and its south-western extremity;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Gledstanes Road between its junctions with Perham Road and Fairholme Road;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting restrictions on both sides of the access road between Baron's Court Road and Comeragh Road adjacent to No. 2 Comeragh Road and in operation Monday - Friday 9am-5pm will be extended to be in operation 'At any time'.
- Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the permitted hours of the existing Controlled Parking Zone D would be extended from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday to 9am to 7pm Monday to Sunday in Greyhound Road (from its junction with Star Road to its junction with Musard Road), Star Road (from its junction with St Andrew's Road to its junction with Verkerker Road), Baron's Court Road, Barton Road, Palliser Road, Comeragh Road, Gledstanes Road, Verkerker Road, Challoner Street, Castletown Road, Charleville Road, Fairholme Road, Perham Road, St Andrew's Road and Challoner Crescent.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload in:-
  - Palliser Road, its south-western kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to the common boundary of Nos. 7 and 9 Palliser Road;
  - Palliser Road, its north-eastern kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to a point 12.00 metres north of its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road;
  - Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, from its junction with the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, north-eastwards to its junction with south-western kerb line of Gledstanes Road;
  - Comeragh Road, its north-western kerb line, from a point opposite the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, eastwards for a distance of 10.00 metres;
  - Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, in the disabled person's parking bay, from the common boundary of Nos. 107 and 109 Comeragh Road, south-westward for a distance of 6.00 metres;
  - Comeragh Road, the south-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Gledstanes Road to the common boundary of Nos. 67 and 69 Comeragh Road;
  - Comeragh Road, the north-western kerb-line, outside Nos. 46 to 52 Comeragh Road;
  - Gledstanes Road, the south-western kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the common boundary of Nos. 2/4 Gledstanes Road;
  - Gledstanes Road, the north-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the south-eastern boundary of No. 71 Comeragh Road;
  - Gledstanes Road, the south-western kerb-line, a section of 15.00 metres outside Baron's Court Mansions
  - Perham Road, both sides, between its junction with Gledstanes Road and its south-western extremity
  - Greyhound Road, the northern kerb-line, between Nos. 183 and 187 Greyhound Road
  - Greyhound Road, the southern kerb-line, from its junction with Musard Road to the common boundary of Leighton Mansions and Kingsley Mansions
  - Musard Road, the south-western kerb-line, from its junction with Greyhound Road to No. 1 Musard Road.

- Between the hours of 5am-6am lorry movements escorted along the whole of Palliser Road, traffic may proceed in the opposite direction of on coming traffic. The 2016 dates of these escorts are 04th May to 16th June 2016, and then 26th June to 14th July 2017.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Tuesday, 03rd May 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner. Works for the build/breakdown would be expected to commence on certain dates falling between 04th May 2016 and 14th July 2017. The tournament dates to which the restrictions described in the articles to this notice would apply fall between 19th June 2017 and 15th June 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:**  
**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA**

**9 Woolneigh Street London SW6 3AU 2017/01521/FUL**  
Installation of three photovoltaic panels on the main roof at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition;

replacement of the existing railing balustrade to existing roof terrace at second floor level with glass balustrade; replacement of rear roof terrace at first floor level with rear extension; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

**Stamford Bridge Stadium Fulham Road London SW6 1HS 2017/01398/FUL**  
Change of Use of ground floor retail shop (Class A1) to general office use (Class B1).  
**White Horse 1 - 3 Parsons Green London SW6 4UL 2017/01502/FUL**

Erection of new timber posts with retractable canvas awning fronting north eastern elevation of the public house.

**24 Ellerby Street London SW6 6EY 2017/01314/FUL**  
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; installation of a dormer window in rear roof slope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

**16 Girdlers Road London W14 0PU 2017/01538/FUL**  
Replacement of all existing single glazed timber windows and doors to all elevations with new timber double glazed windows and doors.

**1A Grimston Road London SW6 3QP 2017/00072/VAR**  
Variation of Condition 02 Variation Application Reference:

2016/04730/VAR granted 09.12.2016 for the 'Variation of Condition 6 of planning permission reference: 2016/01703/FUL dated 29th June 2016 to allow amendments to the proposed roof finish from slate to standing seam zinc sheeting'. Amendment sought to alter the design of the entrance gate.

**8 Harwood Road London SW6 4PH 2017/01471/FUL**  
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2016/04715/FUL granted 3rd February 2017 to include further excavation at basement level to the studio flat in the rear garden to form a storage room and erection of new external staircase with metal railings to access the roof terrace.

**45 Ravenscourt Road London W6 0UJ 2017/01161/FUL**

Installation of French doors to replace the existing window and the erection of railings around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation in connection with its use as a terrace (Amended drawings received).

**95A King Street London W6 9JG 2017/01528/FUL**  
Replacement of an existing aluminium sash window to the front elevation at second floor level with a PVCu timber sash window.

**Flat A 85 Ilffey Road London W6 0PD 2017/01532/FUL**  
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.  
**Site Of 176 - 182 Goldhawk Road London 2017/01223/FUL**

Installation of communal satellite dish and aerial above the main roof at roof level; installation of additional railings behind the existing BT junction box fronting Conningham Road elevation.

**Opposite Eyot Gardens Great West Road London 2017/01386/TEL56**  
Installation of an 15 metre high telecommunications pole, including 1 no. equipment cabinet.

**43 Fernhurst Road London SW6 7JN 2017/01490/FUL**  
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level at the rear of the property; alterations to the roof of the single storey back addition.

**First Floor Flat 104 - 106 Waterford Road London SW6 2EU 2017/01416/FUL**  
Erection of an additional floor at roof level to replace the existing roof in connection with the creation of a new 2 bedroom self-contained flat; formation of a roof terrace at roof level.

**Unit 10 Chelsea Creek Tower 12 Park Street London SW6 2RQ 2017/01501/ADV**  
Display of internally illuminated laminated signage to existing windows at ground floor level to the north, west and east elevations.

**FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT**  
**Hurlingham Club Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3PR 2017/01435/LBC**

Internal alterations to the ground floor office within the east wing of the property to include the removal of an existing internal wall and infilling of a doorway; associated internal alterations.

**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING**

**95A King Street London W6 9JG 2017/01528/FUL**  
Replacement of an existing aluminium sash window to the front elevation at second floor level with a PVCu timber sash window.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 15th May 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013**

**NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13**

**95 - 97 Lillie Road London SW6 7SX 2017/01444/FUL**  
I give notice that - is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of a three storey building for mixed-use comprising of retail (A1) at ground floor; creation of 3 x 1 bedroom and 2 x 2 bedroom self contained flats at first, second floor levels.

**415 North End Road London SW6 1NS 2017/01516/FUL**

I give notice that Mrs Gilda Aslan is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at first and second floor level; installation of a new window to the side elevation at second floor level; conversion of first and the second floor levels from 1 x 1 bedroom and 2 x studio flats into 1 x studio, 1 x 1 bedroom and 1 x 2 bedroom self-contained flats.

**Rear Of 83 Askew Road London W12 9AH 2017/01420/FUL**

I give notice that Mr Tom Teatum is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing garage and the erection of a replacement two storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse together with a roof terrace at roof level.

**1 Gayford Road London W12 9BY 2017/01488/FUL**

I give notice that Palladian Development Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of two replacement buildings; a three storey high building with basement level facing onto Gayford Road, and a three storey high building at the rear; to create seven self-contained flats (3 x 1 beds and 4 x 2 beds).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **15th May 2017**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **JO ROWLANDS**  
*Regeneration, Planning and Housing Lead Director on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL*

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning). Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: [plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk)

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer.

We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning)



# Public Notices

## THOMAS SOMERLED CHAMBERLAYNE-MACDONALD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 17 William Mews, London SW1X 9HF, who died on 04/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 03/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Farrer & Co LLP,  
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields,  
London WC2A 3LH.  
Ref: BLC/RSM/85411.1

**To  
advertise  
in this,  
section  
please call**  
**020  
8768 4912**

South London & M25 J25

## THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM NOTICE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 123(2A) (as Amended) Land in Bishop's Park, Bishop's Avenue London SW6 (the "Land")

1. The Land shown edged in red on the attached plan forms part of an open space held by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (the "Council"). The Land measures 557.7 sq m and it comprises the premises known as Pryor's Bank, London SW6 3LA, including footpaths for access circulation and bin storage areas.

2. NOTICE IS HEREBY given pursuant to Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council intends to dispose of the Land by grant of a lease for a term of 125 years to the London Diocesan Fund. The grant of a long leasehold interest to the London Diocesan Fund ("LDF") would enable the local church The Parish of All Saints Fulham (which has been in occupation of Pryor's Bank since 2007 under a trust for the LDF) to expand its community services from improved facilities.

3. The Council proposes to grant the lease with security of tenure under the Landlord & Tenant Act 1954 to support All Saints making further capital investment in Pryor's Bank.

4. The Council proposes to give its consent (as landlord) for the tenant to build an extension within the land hatched black on the attached plan subject to obtaining a planning permission. The lease would prohibit the enclosure of any other land adjoining Pryor's Bank to preserve the existing access over it.

5. Any objection to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:

**Ian Ross  
Parks Manager  
London Borough of Hammersmith and  
Fulham, c/o The Stable Yard, Holland Park,  
Ilchester Place, LONDON W8 6LU**

No later than the 2nd May 2017 ( quoting  
reference RSD/IR/ PB).  
Dated this 11th April 2017.

*Ian Ross*  
On behalf of the London Borough of  
Hammersmith and Fulham



## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

### THE A3212 GLA ROAD (CHELSEA EMBANKMENT, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable carriageway works to take place on A3212 Chelsea Embankment.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
  - (1) Stopping on Chelsea Embankment outside Nos. 14-16 Chelsea Embankment;
  - (2) Entering, exiting, stopping or proceeding on Royal Hospital Road at its junction with Chelsea Embankment;
  - (3) Turning right into Royal Hospital Road from Cheyne Walk;The Order will be effective between 9:00 PM on the 14th May 2017 until 5:00 AM on the 26th July 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
  - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
  - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs.

**[For vehicles wishing to enter Royal Hospital Road via Chelsea Embankment]** - Chelsea Bridge Road onto normal route of travel  
**[For vehicles wishing to enter Chelsea Embankment via Royal Hospital Road]** - Lower Sloane Street, Sloane Square, Kings Road, Oakley Street onto normal route of travel

Dated this 25th day of April 2017

**Mufu Durowoju  
Network Impact Management Team Manager,  
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London  
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ**

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT  
FOR LONDON

**If you  
notice this  
notice you  
will notice  
it's worth  
noticing!**

**GET NOTICED call us on:  
020 8768 4920**

## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

(Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.

2. "Classified" Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed "Trade Advertisers", and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as "trade", "dealer", "agent", "wholesaler", "GT" etc. in the advertisement.

3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

- (a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

### Box Numbers

Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in "Trade" advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

### Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

### Data Protection

The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.

Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Capital Media Newspapers Ltd or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.

Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.



## LONDON WEEKLY NEWS SPORT

# Rangers one point away

WITH two games left to play, Queens Park Rangers are still seeking the elusive point that will ensure another season of second tier football in W12, writes *Tony McDonald*.

Rs will hope to avoid a nerve-jangling test in their final game at Norwich on May 7 by securing the result required in Saturday's final home fixture of the Championship campaign against fellow strugglers Nottingham Forest.

It's been a miserable end to Ian Holloway's first season back at QPR. Last Saturday's 3-1 defeat in the West London derby at Brentford was their sixth in succession and has seen them slide to 19th place (sixth from bottom) - five points clear of the dreaded drop zone.

But Rangers can't expect an easy ride against Forest, who are just one position and two points below them in the table. Of the sides in the bottom three, Blackburn Rovers could still possibly overhaul Rangers by a point in the unlikely event that they win both of their last two matches (they have won just one of their last 10) and QPR lose theirs.

Even one more point for R's might not be enough to keep them up if Rovers beat Aston Villa at home and also win their final game at Brentford by four goals more than QPR score in their final two matches.

At Griffin Park, Joel Lynch's 62nd-



minute goal, a near-post header from Luke Freeman's free-kick, couldn't even be described as a consolation effort, because by then Brentford were out of sight after Yoann Barbet and Jota (twice) had netted for the hosts.

To rub salt into Hoops' wounds, this was Bees' first league double over their near-neighbours in 52 seasons - since 1964-65.

And the stats continue to pile up against Holloway, who now has a worse losing record (16 defeats in 28 matches) than his two predecessors, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (13 in 42) and Chris Ramsey (16 in 30).

Ollie, pictured, who had not lost a match at Brentford in seven previ-

ous visits as manager, said: "Unfortunately, we've still got some work to do. We went from having the best record in the league to not winning in six. Five or six games ago, we had one win to get. And we still need it."

"The fans are upset - and so am I. Obviously, I'm disappointed for them. Today, we had to deal with how Brentford play, which is very good. They played well, I have to say that. I can't argue with the effort but we missed the opportunity when we won the ball back. We didn't break well enough, we kept giving it away. When we did get the ball, I was expecting us to counter-attack. And when we did get it right, we didn't score."

The reserves beat a developing Brixton Bulls side 22-8 in a spirited contest.

Hoists were able to use their physicality to overcome their opponents as a team full of new players started to build partnerships which they will look to develop in their next game.

MoM was Marc Brune, who made a remarkable transition from wing to

prop forward. The Frenchman carried hard and effectively which laid the platform for the players to convert out wide.

Hills Hoists' next game is in two weeks' time (May 6) against Richmond at Twickenham RFC.

■ The club is proudly supported by Belushis Hammersmith, Anglo Pacific, Element Construction and Stoke Travel.

Reflecting more on his 500th game in management, Holloway added: "My dressing room's convinced it wasn't a penalty (which Jota converted), and that we should have had a goal (there were appeals when Conor Washington's second-half header looked to have crossed the line).

"But it's not how I feel. If the referee says it's a penalty, it's a penalty. Likewise with the goal. "It's about learning how to play under pressure and think clearly. We've got to get back to doing that."

R's go in to Saturday's Shepherd's Bush showdown with Nottingham Forest anxious to end two more unwanted sequences. Ten home league defeats so far in 2016-17 equals their most in a single season (1968-69 and 1949-50), while Ollie's inept defence has kept only two clean sheets in their last 31 matches.

"It's all about where we're going in the future," he said. "We've got two more games to sort it out. We need to be a Championship team again next season. No-one cares more than me, I'm trying to win us games. We need to get a result against Forest. End of. A win there, we're in the Championship again. We can dust ourselves down and go again."

"I need everyone to forget what's gone before. We've got to come together to beat Forest at home."

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"We scored four goals in the first 45 minutes and managed the game to finish with the three points."

"We were very well organised and we created a few chances [in the second-half]. We tried to manage the situation and my players understand. In the second-half we did exactly what we had to do."

"I am very happy with how solid we are. I missed a clean sheet today. This is important for us. OK, 4-1 is nice, a great result, but sometimes I miss 1-0 and I think maybe in the future I'll be a little bit more lucky."

"We are in a good mental moment. We believe we can play good football and compete very well."

Although Sheffield Wednesday, the other top six team with momentum (winning five league games in a row for the first time in 10 years), beat Derby County 2-1 at Hillsborough, Leeds United's 2-1 defeat at struggling Burton Albion meant they gave up their long-held place in the top six.

But Jokanović insists he is not looking at how the teams around Whites are getting on.

"No, I am thinking only about Brentford, our next game," he said. "Two games are in front of us and anything can happen. It's not time to look at the table, it's time to rest our bodies and rest our minds and be fresh and push in the last two games in this regular part of the competition."

"I have enough experience in the Championship to know many strange things can happen. We cannot relax and think everything is done."

Norwegian Johansen's brace took his tally for the season to a career-best 11 league goals. He limped off in the 86th minute but Jokanović is confident he'll have the midfielder available to face Brentford.

"Stefan did a fantastic job for the team," he said. "He's working hard, pushing and pressing very well, and he benefited from this by scoring two goals."

## County cricket

MIDDLESEX batsmen have wasted no time getting into their stride in the club's defence of the County Championship.

After drawing their opening four-day game against Hampshire at Southampton, Middlesex put Essex to the sword in the curtain-raiser at Lord's.

Sam Robson (149 runs), Nick Gubbins (101) and Steve Eskinazi (100) all reached three figures, while John Simpson added 90 as the hosts piled up 507-7 before declaring their first innings. They declared their second innings on 239-3, with Robson (77), Gubbins (64) and Eskinazi (62) all notching half-centuries, which left Essex battling to save the game as LWN went to press on Monday.

Middlesex begin their One-Day Cup bid this week with back-to-back home matches at Lord's against Sussex (Thurs) and Gloucestershire (Sun).

■ NOT to be outdone in the batting stakes, Surrey's big-hitters have also made a forceful start to the season. New signing from Durham Mark Stoneman followed his 165 in their convincing home Championship victory against Warwickshire with 123 in the first innings of the return clash at Edgbaston, where Kumar Sangakkara blasted 105 in a match edging towards a draw as we went to press. Sri Lankan superstar Sangakkara had previously smashed 136, with Scott Borthwick 106 not out, in the second innings of their drawn match against Lancashire at the Kia Oval. Surrey also begin their One-Day Cup schedule this week, heading west to face Somerset (Fri) and Glamorgan (Sun).

# Blues home in on double tilt at silverware

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the closing weeks of the season and admits he is excited at the prospect of adding to his medal haul in SW6.

"Yes, I am excited by it, that's why last season was such a pity," he said. "It's true that most years I am playing for silverware. There is no nicer thing than playing in semi-finals and finals, in a stadium like Wembley with its atmosphere and intensity. This is why we are football players. To play at the top and want to win games... the feeling you get is amazing."

"Sometimes I have experienced the other side, like the Champions League final defeat (losing 4-1 to capital city neighbours Real Madrid in 2014). It's the best feeling to be top of the League and knowing you're playing right until the end of the season to be champions and in the FA Cup final."

Chelsea took the lead twice against Spurs through Willian but were pegged back both times, before Eden Hazard came off the bench and scored. How important

was his fellow Belgian?

"Like everybody else, he wanted to start against Spurs," Courtois admitted, "but the manager decided to rest him. When he came in he was active straight away. When he controlled the ball, I knew it was going to be a big strike. He has been training well and doing well all season. I was happy for him when he scored and for Nemanja as well."

Matic's pearl of a goal, his first in 35 appearances this season, which sealed victory at 4-2, was a stunning 20-yarder that zipped into the top of the Spurs net beyond Hugo Lloris. Could Courtois have saved it?

"I don't think anybody could have saved that - it was impossible," he said. "The power on the ball couldn't have been more perfect."

Courtois laughed at the notion that holding midfielder Matic scores similar goals in training.

"No, they go straight on to Cobham train station! I'm not going to lie, sometimes he gets good goals in training. He has the ability to score goals like that - like he did at Everton

last season. He doesn't score often but he has a good left foot."

Right at the death, Courtois somehow managed to scramble the ball to his body following a Harry Kane free-kick.

"I was a bit lucky," he admits. "I made the step behind the wall and I shouldn't have done that because I knew from watching his free-kicks that the ball usually comes on the goalkeeper's side. I made a step to the middle and the ball went against my head, my butt and then spun back, and I could just grab it before the line."

"When I looked behind me and saw the ball just on the line, I was happy to grab it because there were obviously other players running for the ball. Last year, that would have been a goal but the year we are having, a lot of the time things are on our side, they are going the other way around."

■ N'GOLO Kante won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award for 2016-17.



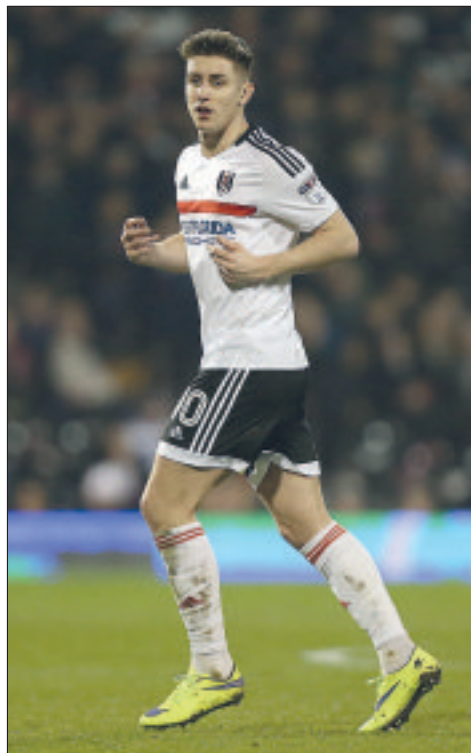
## London Weekly News

# SPORT

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Thibaut Courtois returned to action at Wembley after a freak injury while playing basketball. Tom Cairney scored from the spot for Fulham Pics: Rob Newell



## Fulham one victory from the play-offs

LIKE a thoroughbred race horse timing its late surging run to perfection, unstoppable Fulham are coming up fast on the rails to rein in their Championship promotion rivals as the season enters its crucial final furlongs, writes Tony McDonald.

With two games of the regular campaign left to play, the West Londoners have galloped into sixth place – but could finish third in the final table if they extend their impressive run of four consecutive victories and their closest challengers continue to stumble towards the finish line.

On Saturday, Whites came from behind to win 4-1 at Huddersfield Town and close to within two points of the fifth-placed Terriers and their fellow Yorkshiremen, Sheffield Wednesday.

More importantly, Fulham have put some daylight between themselves and fading Leeds United, who have fallen three points and a place behind them after two successive losses and only one win in their last six.

Because free-scoring Fulham, the Championship's top scorers, have the best goal-difference record of the four teams occupying the play-off berths, they know that one win from their last two scheduled matches – Saturday's West London derby at home to Brentford and what could be a decisive finale in front of a sell-out crowd at Sheffield Wednesday on May 7 – would put them beyond the reach of Leeds and clinch a play-off semi-final spot.

With Brighton & Hove Albion having already secured automatic promotion and second-placed Newcastle United almost certain to join them in the Premier League next season, this is how it looks for the next five teams below them, with their remaining fixtures to come (current position in brackets):

3rd Reading – 79 pts & +1 GD  
4th Sheff Wed – 78 pts & +15 GD  
5th Huddersfield – 78 pts & +2 GD  
6th FULHAM – 76 pts & +27 GD  
7th Leeds – 73 pts & +14 GD

Huddersfield have a game in hand on the other four teams, which they play tonight.

**Tuesday, April 25**  
Wolves (15th) v Huddersfield  
**Saturday, April 29**  
FULHAM v Brentford (9th)  
Birmingham (21st) v Huddersfield  
Ipswich (16th) v Sheff Wed  
Leeds v Norwich (8th)  
Reading v Wigan (23rd)  
Sunday, May 7  
Sheff Wed v FULHAM  
Burton (18th) v Reading  
Huddersfield v Cardiff (13th)  
Wigan (23rd) v Leeds

Fulham showed what they are all about at Huddersfield, who have not beaten them in their last 11 league meetings, dating back to September 1993.

The afternoon began badly, when Chris Lowe put the home side ahead from the penalty spot in four minutes. But the visitors responded in style and had achieved their 4-1 victory before half-time with goals from Scott Malone, a Tom Cairney penalty and Stefan Johansen (two).

Head coach Slavisa Jokanović enthused: "We conceded an early goal but this team showed great character and confidence and started to be braver and stronger," Jokanović said.

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# The final masterplan

THRASHING Spurs is always a good way to start the working week, which hopefully will end on Sunday with six more league points in the bag, writes Paul Lagan.

The fact Tottenham were beaten in an FA Cup semi-final made it all the more sweeter for the Chelsea faithful who packed Wembley Stadium to see Blues win 4-2 – they were never behind and finished with two sensational goals, the second a world-class strike from Nemanja Matic.

Chelsea will face Arsenal, who beat Manchester City in the other semi-final, in the final on May 27.

But tonight (7.45pm), Blues are at home to Southampton, followed by Sunday's (2.05pm) visit to Everton.

Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte revealed his managerial nous again by resting Diego Costa and Eden Hazard to the bench on Saturday and explained it was all part of his seven-day plan which all the players were aware of and agreed to.

The Italian said: "When you have three games in this part of the season, they are all important.

"It was important to reach the final of the FA Cup. For me it's a great achievement because it's my first season here.

"We started without Hazard and Costa – not because I undervalued this game, but because we have to play another game on Tuesday.

"This week is crucial for us and for this reason I prepared the plan and I involved my players in it because when you have to take these strong decisions, it's important to give the right explanation. I think our plan worked very well.

"Southampton is a good, strong team with a lot of good, young play-

ers of quality. For this reason, and for us, it's very important to prepare very well. We haven't a lot of time, it won't be easy but, for sure, it's a crucial moment in the league."

Former Juventus star Conte is used to playing for cups in a glittering playing and managerial career but he believes the FA Cup is special.

"It's always nice to play in important games and for big trophies," he said.

"When you're young and looking at the Premier League, you want to play in FA Cup finals and to play for a title. It's a good achievement and hopefully we can win the trophy."

The win over Spurs, who are four points behind Blues in the Premier League title race, should give the players renewed confidence following their most recent loss to Manchester United. Conte agrees: "It doesn't give us three points in the title race," he said, "but, mentally, it's a good thing. Spurs had won seven league games in a row, were on a good run and have been scoring so many goals. In the last few weeks they have been doing very well and if they had beaten us at Wembley, they would be feeling even better.

"Now it is going to be hard to the end. Maybe we have an advantage. We still have a four-point lead."

■ **GOALKEEPER** Thibaut Courtois is a man used to fighting for titles and is as excited at the prospect of a league and cup double with Chelsea as he was while chasing Spanish and European glory during his three seasons on loan to Atletico Madrid.

The gap between Chelsea and Spurs has narrowed from 10 to four points in recent weeks and the 24-year-old Belgium No.1 thinks the

race for the title has seen a shift in favour of the North Londoners.

"Just as we did between October and January, when we had a run of a lot of victories, they have been doing that now," he said.

"If you play against Crystal Palace, Manchester City, Bournemouth and Manchester United in the space of a few weeks, you can always drop points. OK, we didn't expect to lose the Palace game but you can lose at Manchester United. We didn't play our best game but these are the facts we had to face.

"It was important we beat Tottenham (in the FA Cup semi-final). We have to do the same against Southampton and then we can go to Everton with a good feeling, because that will be very tough too.

"They are doing very well. The two games coming up now will be very, very important."

Courtois missed the 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford because he injured himself while playing basketball during a promotional shoot for a club sponsor.

"It was very hard to miss that game," he said. "But I have to thank the medical staff at Cobham for getting me fit for the Spurs match. I tore an ankle ligament and I think it's incredible to be able to play after one-and-a-half weeks."

So how did it happen?

"I was just catching the ball," he said. "A pass from Asmir Begovic. I jumped to get it, like I have done a million times at training, and I just landed badly. I twisted my ankle. It swelled really quickly.

"I thought my season was over. In those initial moments, you always fear the worst. But medical man Paco said straight away that he

would get me ready as soon as possible and I am very happy to have made it to Wembley."

So will he be steering away from any more extracurricular activities?

No, is the short answer. But Courtois explained: "There are things we do during the season, commercial activities. It was just unfortunate that happened. I have done worse things in goalkeeping drills that might injure me but nothing happens. It was just silly.

"I know playing basketball doing commercial activities sounds very bad and stupid but it's what we do a lot. It's part of our job as well. It's just unfortunate. It's a fact of life in sport that you can get injured but, luckily, I only missed one game.

"That's what we do with Chelsea. Obviously there will be more things but I don't think there will be anything with the ball, so no-one else gets injured. I don't think there is a need to cancel those activities because that is part of the partnership the club has with certain brands."

Courtois revealed after Saturday's semi-final that he was not fully recovered.

"When I had to kick, there was a bit of pain," he said. "Obviously, I had to stand on my right foot, which was not easy at times. But in goal I felt very good and when you play with adrenaline, you feel good and you forget.

"I'm getting better every day, so hopefully soon I will be able to play without the need for any strapping."

Having won the Europa League (2012), Copa del Rey (2013) and La Liga (2014) with Atletico, Courtois is used to challenging for silverware in

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## RANGERS ONE VITAL POINT FROM SAFETY-PAGE 27